



# 4G here; please wait ...

*Telenor debuts network that may boost 'net speeds 3X, but unavailable to public until 2012*

By **MARK SABBATINI**  
Editor

Just in time for the posting of *Playboy's* entire archive online, Telenor Svalbard is debuting a network providing Longyearbyen residents with the company's faster internet speed in Norway.

How fast? It'll have that historic Marilyn Monroe debut issue downloaded sometime early next year.

Until then the network is being used on a limited basis to test Telenor's first 4G/LTE network outside of its headquarters at Fornebu. The company switched on the hookup Sunday as it hosted a gala also celebrating 100 years of service in Svalbard.

Longyearbyen has been used as a test market for several technologies and new services since the city's first telegraph station opened in 1991, according to a company statement. The small community of about 2,000 residents is among "the most digitalized in the world" as connections are relied upon for research, meteorology, satellite operations, maritime navigations and other functions by wide a range of international entities.

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EVA THERESE JENSSEN / UNIS

A camera team from NRK's "Schrödingers Katt" documents a dive by Jørgen Berge, a professor at The University Centre in Svalbard, in the slush-ice at Ny-Ålesund in January of 2010.

## UNIS: Thriving like mold

*2010 sees rebound in financial outlook, Norwegian enrollment*

By **MARK SABBATINI**  
Editor

There's not a lot of places where a report about a good year calls fungus one of the primary achievements.

Studies in that field are the first cited in The University Centre in Svalbard's annual report for 2010, where a rebound in the financial situation and ratio of Norwegian students are detailed. The tone is notably more optimistic than the 2009 report, which describes a period of cutbacks and restructuring.

"The year 2010 was one in which UNIS prepared for new growth," the summary by the UNIS board of directors states. "The financial situation is now under control ... accompanied by good research results in several areas. The Ministry of Education and Research allocated UNIS funds for increased student production for the first time since 2006."

Enrollment of Norwegians in 2010 also surged to 47 percent of the 353 total students,

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## 'Amundsenvillaen' reopens



ANDRINE KYLLING / KINGS BAY AS

A restored painting depicting hunting in the Arctic is seen on a wall during the reopening of "Amundsenvillaen" on Saturday.

*Restored villa used in the 1920s by Amundsen to again be used for housing, making polar plans*

By **MARK SABBATINI**  
Editor

It wouldn't really be a fitting monument to a famed polar explorer without at least one "overcoming the elements" story.

"Amundsenvillaen" officially opened in Ny-Ålesund as planned Saturday after the ceremony was threatened by a volcano eruption in

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## Corrections policy

When we screw up you'll know about it – on the front page. One of the big complaints about newspapers is they tend to bury corrections and clarifications deep inside where few people who read the original article see them. If we need to fix something, an alert box on the front page will state what story is in error and where the full correction is printed.

## Submitting material

Letters, columns, photos and other material are welcome, but we can't offer pay for published items since nobody here is getting paid at the moment. Submissions in electronic form (text, Word documents, JPEGs, etc.) are highly preferred, although typing and/or scanning of items will be considered on a per-case basis. We reserve the right to edit submissions for length, clarity, accuracy, libel and other reasons, but we will also make every reasonable effort to contact the author about any changes prior to publication.



SYLVI LUNDGREN / KINGS BAY AS



ANDRINE KYLLING / KINGS BAY AS

About 100 people gather Saturday in front of "Amundsenvillaen," above, for a ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate the restoration of the 93-year-old building in Ny-Ålesund. Among the historic explorers using the building for planning North Pole expeditions was Roald Amundsen in 1925 and 1926. Paintings on the walls and ceilings, such as the plane at left, illustrating the race towards the North Pole and hunting in the Arctic were probably done when the building was used as a bar during the 1930s.

# Minor work on villa remains

## RESTORED, from page 1

Iceland that forced the cancellation of two other major events last week. Some people, including featured dignitaries, didn't make it after the ash cloud from the volcano disrupted flights during the middle of the week. But Kings Bay Director Roger Jakobsen said about 100 people, including 35 visitors, participated in the event at the research station.

"The opening was quite successful," he wrote in an e-mail interview. "Both experts

with historic cultural backgrounds and others were pleased with the results," he wrote.

Some minor restoration work remains, including exterior painting, replacing the delivery of an incorrect front door, and aligning some doors and windows, Jakobsen noted.

The upper floor will be used as housing for the station's director, as it was designed for in 1918, with meeting space on the lower floor.

**There's more! Visit [www.icepeople.net](http://www.icepeople.net) for the complete story.**

## Icesheet

### Random bits of the week's weirdness:

OK, we understand an eclipse is cool, but we're still amused people are excited about things getting kinda dark in the middle of the night. That's probably all anyone staying up past midnight Wednesday is likely to see in Longyearbyen as clouds are expected to completely block what's supposed to be a 60 percent solar eclipse. It does make us wonder how many people are planning to come here just to see the total eclipse in 2015 and how they'll react if the weather is similarly lousy ... We were remiss in covering the alternative medicine conference last week, but did stop by

during a rather entertaining moment as a group was clustered outside smoking during a break between yoga and herbal remedy sessions (or whatever – we didn't look at the agenda that closely) ... The tabloids' reverence for Prince Harry after his Excellent Svalbard Adventure seems to be over as big headlines are now screaming about his boozing, womanizing and whether he should be allowed to "fight for real" in the combat zone he's a soldier in. But he's got a surefire plan to elevate himself again in their view, talking about climbing Mount Everest next year with the wounded soldiers he accompanied on this year's North Pole trek.



MARK SABBATINI / ICEPEOPLE

Longyearbyen residents and visiting dignitaries, above, celebrate the 100th anniversary of Telenor Svalbard and debut of the world's northernmost 4G/LTE network during a gala Sunday at Kulturhuset. The network is in the testing phases and is scheduled to be available to the public in 2010. At right, locals and dignitaries gather to celebrate the opening of Svalbard's first telegraph station in 1911.



TELENOR SVALBARD

HEADLINES STOLEN FROM  
**SVALBARDPOSTEN**  
VERDENS NORDLIGSTE AVIS

**Store Norske hiring new firm for Lunckefjell infrastructure**

Store Norske is entering final negotiations with Veidekke as the infrastructure contractor for a new coal mine at Lunckefjell, ruling out the possibility longtime contractor Leonhard Nilsen & Sønner might again be considered. Store Norske announced in March they are terminating their relationship with LNS because of questionable subcontracts that have resulted in criminal charges against former leaders of LNS and Store Norske. The Oslo-based Veidekke is one of Norway's largest construction companies, employing 6,000 workers. Development of the Lunckefjell mine is scheduled to begin in the spring of 2012, with production starting in 2013.

**Tenants at shopping complex protest building of new fence**

A fence now being constructed between a shopping complex and the main road through the center of Longyearbyen is being met with resistance by some of the center's tenants. "It's going to be hellish to remove snow," said Stig Kristiansen, manager of Sportscenteret. "And how will it be with deliveries?" He said he thought the matter was resolved the last time a fence was unsuccessfully sought, but city officials said they support the project and don't expect significant problems. "We are well within the norms that exist in other parts of the world," said Vigdis Hole of the city's planning and development department. "There is no more snow here than elsewhere in Norway." Jøran Storø, construction leader for LNS Spitsbergen, said tenants are continuing debate with the city and Svalbard governor, and "we'll see if the fence will remain."

**Low interest results in Coop Svalbard canceling meeting**

Lack of interest resulted in Coop Svalbard canceling a members' meeting scheduled Monday. Morten Helliksen, administrative director of the company's Svalbardbutikken supermarket, said he is "a little surprised" since members have expressed a desire for more than a single annual meeting. He said they may try another gathering this fall.

**4G may offer 90Mbps, for a price**

**NETWORK, from page 1**

"We are interested to see how a select few users take advantage of this mobile broadband in an area that already has access to fiber optics with good capacity," said Bjørn Amundsen, Telenor's coverage director, in an interview with *Teknisk Ukeblad*.

Select users among the area's bigger companies will be chosen for the test. Amundsen said specifics should be determined "in a couple of weeks."

How much faster 4G/LTE is compared to current 3G service is a subject ripe for a lengthy techno-geek debate due to numerous factors.

Practically speaking, locals residents could reach download speeds of 80 Mbps to 90 Mbps, about three times what a common fiber-optic link offers, according to *Teknisk Ukeblad*.

But that rate will decline as more users are connected.

Also, customers will likely pay premium prices for premium speeds. Telenor's basic internet service for Longyearbyen currently offers download speeds of 1.5 Mbps, with tiered-rate increases up to 25 Mbps.

Furthermore, while service is being upgraded to the communities of Svea and Barentsburg, they will "only" be able to download their porn using 3G.

Sunday's gala celebration, in addition to lots of fried hors d'oeuvres and a fusion concert by an acclaimed group of visiting musicians, also offered a chance to relive the dramatic role telecommunications have played in Svalbard since the telegraph arrived.

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**Weather forecast for Longyearbyen**

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Rain and snow. SW winds to 15 km/h. High 1C (-2C wind chill), low 0C (-2C wind chill).	Cloudy. W winds to 18 km/h. High 1C (-2C wind chill), low -1C (-6C wind chill).	Late snow. Variable winds to 11 km/h. High 0C (-2C wind chill), low -2C (-5C wind chill).	Snow. N winds at 7 km/h. High 0C (-2C wind chill), low -1C (-3C wind chill).
Sunrise/sunset: 24-hour light	Sunrise/sunset: 24-hour light	Sunrise/sunset: 24-hour light	Sunrise/sunset: 24-hour light
<b>Extended forecast:</b> Sunday, snow, 0C (-2C), -1C (-3C), light 24:00h; Monday, p. cloudy, 0C (-2C), -1C (-3C), light 24:00h; Tuesday, snow at times, 0C (-2C), -1C (-6C), light 24:00h; Wednesday, snow at times, 0C (-2C), -1C (-6C), light 24:00h.			
<b>Data provided by yr.no</b>			



UNIS

Students examine debris at Nansen glacier in Borebukta as part of a geological history class during the fall 2010 semester at UNIS. The class spent four days exploring various sites during the trip.

## Income, Norwegians up at UNIS

### REPORT, from page 1

nearly returning to the 49 percent reported in 2008. The ratio dropped to 35 percent in 2009 due to a reduction in courses, especially during the fall semester.

Foreigners from 32 countries enrolled at UNIS 2010. Among total students, 11 percent came from other Nordic countries, nine percent from Germany, six percent from the United Kingdom and five percent from Russia.

UNIS received 89.5 million kroner from Norway's Ministry of Education and Research in 2010. Of that, 66 million was for base funding, 3.2 million was for investments in equipment, and 20.3 million for rent.

In addition, UNIS received 38.3 million kroner from external project income for research, and 12.8 million from consultancy services and rentals.

"Compared with last year, the income from consultancy services in 2010 is double," the report notes. "UNIS has also experienced an increase in external funding for research from nine percent of its gross income in 2001 to 28 percent in 2010. The board of directors is extremely satisfied with the increase in external income."

Highlights cited in the research at UNIS in

2010 include:

- Analysis of a fungi community from a glacier forefront in Kongsfjorden, which "uncovered a far greater diversity of root-associated fungus in the Arctic than in corresponding glacier forefronts in mountains on the mainland." The report states the association between fungi and plants is understudied in the area, but new technology is making more efficient research possible.

- Several large space physics projects including InfraSpace, which seeks to develop new optical instruments and calibration equipment. Another is NorUSca II, a Norwegian/Russian collaborative project also focusing on instrumentation. "Data from the instruments will be used to enhance understanding of how energy transport occurs from the solar wind, through the Earth's magnetosphere and down to our atmosphere."

- Presentation of the first snapshot of the thermal state of the permafrost in Earth's circumpolar area, as measured during the International Polar Year time window. "The conclusion is clear that the warmest permafrost in the high Arctic is in Svalbard."

**There's more! Visit [www.icepeople.net](http://www.icepeople.net) for the complete story.**



CARL EGEDE BØGGLID / UNIS



NJÅL GULBRANDSEN / UNIS

A student, above left, conducts fieldwork in Adventdalen in February of 2010 for a "Snow and Ice Processes" class at UNIS. Participants in the graduate-level geophysics course "Polar Magnetospheric Substorms," above right, gather at the Kjell Henriksen Observatory in November of 2010 to measure the Aurora Borealis.

## What's up

### June 1-4

APEX Fifth International Conference and Workshop, focusing on the Arctic's role in the global climate system. Presentations, group workshops and tours. UNIS. Details and data from past conferences at [www.apex.geo.su.se](http://www.apex.geo.su.se).

### June 1

8 p.m.: Movie: "Route Irish," U.S. action/war, ages 15 and up. Kulturhuset.

### June 4

10 a.m.: Spitsbergen Marathon. Full, half and 10K courses. Starts and finishes at Svalbardhallen. Register at [www.svalbardturn.no](http://www.svalbardturn.no).

6 p.m.: Cultural exchange from Barentsburg. Show featuring Russian musicians, dancers and others. Tickets 100 kr. adults, 50 kr. youths and seniors. Kulturhuset.

### June 5

6 p.m.: Movie: "Alpha and Omega" (3D), U.S./Indian animated dubbed in Norwegian, ages 7 and up. Kulturhuset.

8 p.m.: Movie: "Melancholia," Danish drama/sci-fi/thriller, ages 11 and up. Kulturhuset.

### June 9

2 p.m.: Board of Culture and Leisure Business Authority meeting. Næringsbygget 1, Tundra room.

### June 10

Longyearbyen Day. Free admission to Svalbard Museum and Gallery Svalbard, plus 90-minute historic walking tour of city guided by Dag Ivar Brekke of Store Norske beginning at 5 p.m. at Skjæringa. The show "Polar Eufori" will also be presented at 6:30 p.m. at Kulturhuset.

### June 11

7:30 p.m.: Concert: "An Evening With Elton John" by Tundradundrene and the Longyearbyen and Store Norske choirs. Tickets at the door, cash only. Kulturhuset.

## What's online

[Icepeople.net](http://Icepeople.net) provides daily updates of news about Svalbard and the world's polar regions, plus extras for articles from the print edition. Among the latest news:

- *Russia plans 35m kr. Svalbard cleanup*
- *A diary of a bird migrating to Svalbard*
- *Pols: Trees cause warming, cars don't*
- *Burping cows Down Under helping Earth*