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The FTTH Council Europe

The FTTH Council Europe is an industry organisation with a mission to accelerate the availability of fibre-based, ultra-high-speed access networks to consumers and businesses. The Council promotes this technology because it is an enabler of cutting-edge services and applications. The development of new digital services and content will enhance quality of life, contribute to a better environment, increase employment and economic competitiveness, and finally help combat some of the major issues facing society today, for instance, by improving health care services for an aging population.

In addition, we also believe that FTTH is the key to developing a sustainable future, as it is now widely acknowledged that FTTH is the only future-proof technology for broadband Internet access, when it comes to speed, reliability, security and scalability. In short, rolling out FTTH in Europe is a way to create a brighter future for the next generation.

All our publications, articles, pictures, video clips and other information are available on our website: www.ftthcouncil.eu

Our History

The FTTH Council Europe was created in 2004 by five founding members - Emtelle, OFS, Corning, Cisco and Alcatel - with the common aim to focus on the next wave of innovation and to connect more homes, businesses and possibly even machines with fibre.

Today, the FTTH Council Europe has grown to a strong industry organisation comprising 150 member companies. We have broadened our membership base to include content and applications providers from media, entertainment, and healthcare, as well as research and government organisations. In 2014 we launched a special membership category for operators.

"The development of new digital services and content will enhance quality of life"
Our mission

Our mission is to accelerate the availability of fibre-based, ultra-fast access networks to consumers and businesses. We do this through a wide range of activities from our annual conference to our social media-based competitions, and through the work of our committees.

Our committees include the Deployment and Operations Committee, which produces the FTTH Handbook, the Finance Committee, the Market Intelligence Committee, the Smart Cities Committee and the World of Applications Committee. We also have a Policy and Regulation Expert Group, which connects with regulators and policy makers both at a national and European level.

Call for Action 2015

Our Board of Directors met at the General Assembly in Amsterdam on 22 and 23 April 2015 to set the work plan for the coming year. They launched a call for action asking decision makers and other stakeholders to create a favourable environment for the rollout of fibre.

Through its Call for Action, the FTTH Council Europe will focus on five main activities in the 2015-2016 period:

- Creating a business-friendly environment for fibre
- Overcoming technology neutrality
- Discussing new business models to accelerate FTTH roll-out including structural separation
- Ensuring consumer transparency
- Letting Member States act as anchor clients
"Every year we organise the FTTH Conference, which is the largest FTTH-focused event in the world. Taking place in a different European country each year, the event attracted last year more than 3,000 participants and 85 nationalities from all corners of the globe."

The FTTH Conference 2016, to be held in Luxembourg City on 16-18 February 2016, has received the high patronage of Xavier Bettel, Prime Minister and Minister for Communications and Media of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg. Xavier Bettel will deliver the opening speech of the FTTH Conference to an international audience of experts in telecommunications and technology. We hope that the FTTH Conference will make a positive contribution throughout Europe by raising awareness of the important issues linked with fibre.

This 13th edition of the FTTH Conference will be under the special theme “Calling for a brighter future”. The unique “all inclusive” concept allows delegates to remain at the conference for the entire three days. Combining top-level presentations with an exhibition and unparalleled networking opportunities, the FTTH Conference brings together stakeholders from around the world to share knowledge and experience on a wide range of FTTH-related topics.
Fibre to the home is a type of Internet connection that uses optical fibre to transmit data at the speed of light all the way into the subscriber’s home, building or office. What makes FTTH special is that it removes the network bottlenecks:

- Download speeds are much, much faster, so the network never holds you back.
- Upload speeds – often painfully slow using older technologies like ADSL – are dramatically improved. This allows data files such as family photos to be uploaded (sent) quickly and makes interactive services, like video communication, much more efficient and enjoyable.
- Quality of service is another strength of FTTH. Aside from bandwidth, parameters like latency (the delay until data is sent through a network) are important, in particular if it is about real time services.

FTTH is not just about Internet access. FTTH opens the door to a wide range of new services and applications, both for entertainment and productivity, delivered right to the home or the office. These include video communication with friends/family and colleagues, video-on-demand, online gaming, teleworking, eHealth services and many more.

FTTH/B in a few words

So that everyone can understand each other, the FTTH Council Global Alliance Group has adopted common definitions for fibre to the home (FTTH) and fibre to the building (FTTB).

"FTTH is not just about Internet access. FTTH opens the door to a wide range of new services and applications, both for entertainment and productivity, delivered right to the home or the office."
Fibre to the home (FTTH)

FTTH is defined as an access network architecture in which the final connection to the subscriber’s premises is made using optical fibre. The fibre-optic cable is terminated on or inside the premises for the purpose of carrying communication services to a single subscriber.

Fibre to the building (FTTB)

FTTB is defined as an access network architecture serving a building with multiple subscribers, where the fibre-optic cable is terminated on or inside the building, but the final connection to the subscriber’s home or office is a physical medium other than optical fibre.

Read the official definitions of FTTH and FTTB:
"The FTTH Council Europe believes that FTTH can make an important contribution to Europe’s economy, by creating jobs and helping to boost macroeconomic growth and business productivity. An increasing number of reports support these positive impacts."

**Employment**

Jobs are created to build the network, and the skills gained in the process provide a competitive advantage for early adopters. Broadband also leads to job creation in the rest of the economy through the “multiplier effect” as companies use better ICT processes to help grow their business. Several studies have estimated the number of new jobs created:

- For every 1,000 new broadband customers, around 80 new jobs are created (study by Arthur D Little and Chalmers University in 2011).
- In the context of the French High Speed Plan, €20 billion invested in ICT, including broadband and infrastructure, is expected to create 20,000 jobs in the country by 2022 (*France Très Haut débit*, 2015).

**Economic Growth**

It is well established that broadband penetration increases economic growth, but now evidence is also emerging that faster broadband speeds have greater impact and generates an overall annual increase in the gross domestic product of a country.

- A 10% increase in broadband household penetration helps boost a country’s gross domestic product between 0.9% and 1.5%, says global management consulting firm McKinsey & Company.
- A 10% increase in broadband penetration brings 1% increase in GDP and 1.5% in labour productivity growth over next five years, according to Booz & Company (*World Bank*, 2012).
A doubling in broadband speeds produces a 0.3% increase in GDP, according to a 2011 study by Ericsson, Arthur D. Little and Chalmers University. The study also found that additional doublings of speed resulted in further 0.3% increase in economic growth.

Preliminary evidence from a US study into gigabit communities – those where 1Gbps broadband is widely available – indicate that those communities enjoyed per capita a GDP that is 1.1% higher than communities with little or no available gigabit services (Analysis Group, 2014).

Luxembourg’s Digital Lëtzebuerg aims to maintain a positive environment for existing ICT companies while attracting new digital businesses (OCDE, 2015).

**Productivity**

Strategic Networks Group has investigated how better broadband leads to higher productivity. In a nutshell, for a business or organisation in the US, 10% greater utilisation of the Internet will increase revenues by 24% and reduce business costs by 7%. The study also found that the positive return on investment on Internet-based technology for improving productivity is 8.9% higher for FTTH users than for cable users, and 14.2% higher for FTTH users than for DSL users (Strategic Networks Group, 2011).

"For every 1,000 new broadband customers, around 80 new jobs are created, according to a study by Arthur D Little and Chalmers University in 2011."
Health Care & Environment

Although advanced digital healthcare applications are in the early stages of development, we can already see that the impact will be significant. Here are a few examples:

• Hospitals in rural Sweden say they reduced medical scan costs by 35% by sending images to Spain for analysis. This adds up to €800,000 per year in cost savings and the time patients had to wait to get their results was cut by half (Deloitte Access Economics Pty, 2010).

• One of the services trialed in Västerås used the Giraff, a telepresence robot designed to help the elderly live independently for longer. Described by the European Commission as “the greatest digital story of 2014”, the idea has been further developed with EU funding.

Did you know?

The OECD has calculated that “on average, cost savings of between 0.5% and 1.5% in each of four sectors - electricity, transport, energy, and health - over ten years, resulting directly from a new broadband network platform could justify the cost of building a national FTTH network.”

Teleworking and remote access to services can reduce carbon emissions and thus help the environment, by reducing the need to travel:

• If 10% of the working population worked from home three days a week and 20% of the elderly used FTTH-based home assistance services, this would save the CO2 equivalent to about 4600 km of car travel a year for each household (PWC/Ecobilan 2009).

• The same study explains that one million users connected to an FTTH network can save one million tons of carbon-dioxide a year through reduced car usage by 4600 kilometres per household.

• FTTH uses some 20 percent less electricity compared to a VDSL2 access network with the same amount of subscribers (Study Ziyi Xiong, 2013).

• Smart grids that adjust rates for peak energy usage could save US$200-500 billion per year by 2025 (McKinsey Global Institute).
Every year, on 4 November, we celebrate Gimme fibre Day. On this day, citizens of the world are encouraged to organise activities that show how fibre has changed their quality of life! This particular day was chosen in recognition of Sir Charles K. Kao, born on 4 November and whose work laid the foundation for all modern fibre-optic communication networks.

"We want FTTH now. Together, let us be heard!"

The third edition of Gimme Fibre Day was held on 4 November 2015 and was a great worldwide success. More than 20 activities to mark the occasion were listed on our website, not to mention the many spontaneous actions throughout the world showing support for Gimme Fibre Day.

The FTTH Council Europe also organised a Facebook Selfie Contest “I want Fibre”. The lucky winner won an iPad mini 4.

France has been a strong advocate of fibre to the home (FTTH) this year, and this was reflected in the activities occurring around “La journée de la Fibre”, the French edition of Gimme Fibre Day. For this occasion, the FTTH Council Europe has collaborated with the French operator Orange to organise online activities on social media and on the French Gimme Fibre Day website: www.journeedelafibre.fr
Over the course of her career in international ICT, Nadia has held various positions in the fields of European affairs, marketing/communications and business development. Since 2009, Nadia is the Communications Director of the FTTH Council Europe, in charge of all marketing and communications activities from social media to press relations, including the organisation of the FTTH Conference, the world’s biggest FTTH-focused event. As a spokesperson for the FTTH Council Europe, Nadia is a seasoned keynote speaker who regularly represents the organisation abroad, particularly at international broadband events.

Edgar Aker was appointed President of the FTTH Council Europe in April 2015. He has been an active member of the FTTH Council Europe since 2007, and a Member of the Board since October 2011, representing Prysmian Group. Edgar is currently Director of Marketing, Business Development and Strategy at Prysmian Group. Previously responsible for Draka’s telecommunications company for the BeNeLux, Edgar has been involved with the company’s broadband activities since the very beginning. Additionally, Edgar is also a member of the Dutch telecom association NETELCOM.
Our Members

- 3M
- ACOME
- ACREO
- ACTAVO
- ADTRAN
- AND SOLUTION
- ANRITSU EMEA
- APRESA - PLP SPAIN
- AURORA NETWORKS
- AVM COMPUTERSYSTEME
- BAM INFRATECHNIK
- BERTHOLD SICHERT
- BKTEL COMMUNICATIONS
- CALIX
- CAMOZZI
- CANOVATE GROUP
- CAPABILITIES
- CBE
- CHANNELL
- COMMSCOPE
- COMPTOIR DES SIGNAUX
- COMSOF
- CONDUX INTERNATIONAL
- CONNECTION TECHNOLOGY SYSTEMS
- CORNING
- CTTS TRAINING
- DASAN NETWORK SOLUTIONS
- DATWYLER CABLES
- DETECON INTERNATIONAL
- DIGPRO TECHNOLOGIES
- DKT
- DSM DESOTECH
- DURA-LINE EUROPE
- DYNAMIC DESIGN INFORMATIONSSYSTEME
- EAST PHOTONICS
- EDEN
- EGEPLAST INTERNATIONAL
- EMTELLE
- ERICSSON
- ETD EUROPE
- EXFO EUROPE
- FIBERDK
- FIBREFAB
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- FILOFORM
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- FRAUNHOFER INSTITUT
- FREMCO
- FUJIKURA EUROPE
- GABO SYSTEMTECHNIK
- GE ENERGY
- GENEXIS
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- HELLERMANNTYTON
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- HOCHSCHULE FURTWANGEN UNIVERSITY
- HUAWEI
- HUBER+SUHNER
- Icotera
- IMINDS
- INNO INSTRUMENTS EUROPE
- INNOVENCE
- INSTITUT MINES TELECOM
- INTEL DEUTSCHLAND
- ISKRATEL
- JOHN GUEST LIMITED
- KABELOVNA DĚČÍN PODMOKLY
- KARL BAUER CONSULTANT
- KEYFIBRE
- KEYMILE
- LANGMATZ
- M2FX
- MARAIS GROUPE
- MICOS TELCOM
- MITSUBISHI ELECTRIC
- NETADMIN SYSTEM
- NEXANS
- NOKIA
- NOVOBIT
- OCILION IPTV TECHNOLOGIES
- OFS
- OMELCOM
- OPTICREACH
- OPTOTEC
- PACIFIC BROADBAND NETWORKS
- PACKETFRONT
- PARKER HANNIFIN
- PENGG KABEL
- PLUMETTAZ
- PRYSMIAN GROUP
- PT INOVACAO
- RADIUS SYSTEMS
- RALA INFRATECH
- REICHEL & DE-MASSARI
- RIVARD
- SENKO
- SETICS
- SHENZHEN FH-NET OPTOELECTRONICS
- SHENZHEN GL-COM TECHNOLOGY
- SILEC CABLE
- SKYLANE OPTICS
- STERLITE OPTICAL TECHNOLOGIES
- SUNSEA TELECOMMUNICATIONS
- SYNCHRONOSS TECHNOLOGIES
- TELE-KABEL-INGENIEURGESELLSCHAFT
- TELECO
- TELESTE CORPORATION
- TIERRE GROUP
- TILGIN
- TVC UK HOLDING
- TWENTSCHER KABELFABRIK
- UNITED TECHNOLOGISTS EUROPE
- VERMEER CORPORATION
- VIAVI
- WAVIN
- WISI
- ZEWE - CENTRE FOR EUROPEAN ECONOMIC RESEARCH
- ZHONE TECHNOLOGIES
- ZTE
- ZWEICOM

OPERATOR OBSERVER
- ANDORRA TELECOM
Want to know more? Case studies, opinion articles, market data and reports are available in the “Resources” tab on our website www.ftthcouncil.eu
FTTH Conference 2017
Save the date!

See you next year in Marseille, France
14 to 16 February 2017

www.ftthconference.eu