

## Channel Island operator rolls out island-wide ultrafast fibre

*The island's incumbent operator is aiming for 1Gbps to all homes and businesses by 2016.*

The Island of Jersey lies 100 miles south of Great Britain and 14 miles north west of France. It has a population of around 100 000 and boasts the world's sixth highest per capita GDP. JT (formerly Jersey Telecom) is now well advanced in its plan to offer 1 Gbps symmetrical connectivity to all of its businesses and homes, using advanced fibre infrastructure plus open access Wi-Fi and 3G mobile networks at all points.

### General Information

**Location:**

Jersey, population of ~100 000 (42 000 homes).

**Infrastructure owner:**

JT owns and operates the network, and provides both wholesale and retail services.

**Network status:**

Operational. Trial period ended in March 2012.

Jersey is also home to one of the world's major international finance centres, with 45 of the world's top banks and over 33 000 registered companies on the island. Over £187 billion is deposited in the island at any one time. The island's finance industry has been using fibre connectivity for over 20 years using private circuits from JT, but today's businesses large and small demand 24/7 connectivity in order to remain competitive.

"We are very proud to be introducing one of the first ubiquitous networks," said Graeme Millar, CEO of JT. "Being credited in the FTTH Council Europe's recent independent global gigabit report underpins our efforts and highlights that Jersey is now one of the most connected places in the world. Being recognised as one of the most digitally advanced jurisdictions provides an excellent profile raising opportunity for the island."

### Business Case

**Investment:**

Publicly known to be £41.5 million: JT's shareholder the States of Jersey invested £19m (£10 million loan and £9 million reduced dividend expectation for 3 years), and JT has invested £22.5m.

**Business model:**

JT is a fully integrated operator that builds and operates the network and also provides services include wholesale services to competitors of JT Retail.



"The high number of 100 Mbps and 1 Gbps customers further demonstrates there is real demand in the island for superfast fibre broadband services and we're delighted that the Jersey community is showing such an interest in getting connected to the fibre network. The fibre trial was the first phase of our three-year programme and enabled us to gain valuable learnings ahead of our island-wide roll out. With this completed, we are now rolling out fibre on an area-by-area basis, with the aim of establishing a point-to-point network by 2016, and along the way customers have a choice of services from 2 Mbps to 1 Gbps."

Removing copper cables altogether will put Jersey in a unique position as the first European jurisdiction to boast an "all fibre" network. JT had the advantage of using the island's existing extensive duct network, to create a ubiquitous fibre network. The amount of civil works remained very limited and there were not many infrastructure challenges. This helped make the switch from copper to fibre reasonably straightforward and financially viable. Gaining access to some of the ducts, which had not been accessed for many years, presented some minor challenges, but overall disruption to the island's 42 000 households has been minimal.



## Deployment

### Size of network:

17 270 homes passed. That's 41% of all homes.  
1 000 subscribers (Sept 2012)

### Technology/architecture:

Point-to-point fiber to every home in Jersey

### Time to deploy:

Publicly announced as five-year programme with 2016 end date. Accelerated business case reduces it to 3.5 years ending Dec. 2014. Network trial ran from December 2011 to end March 2012.

JT has made it clear that everyone on the island will be offered unlimited access, not only business hubs. The network will offer great benefits for businesses and social inclusion to every household and institution, and take-up rates so far have been very high.



In September 2012, Jersey passed the significant milestone of 1 000 homes connected to its new fibre network. This figure exceeded expectations and shows there is real demand among islanders. Lee Monamy, the first customer to sign up for a gigabit connection, said: "Having fast internet access has always been important in running my IT business from home and I was one of the first customers to get a residential ADSL line twelve years ago, so I'm

## End-user Services

### Consumer and business services:

A this time, standard voice and Internet access products range from 2 Mb/s (for £17.99) to 1 Gb/s (at £59.99) and including a 100 Mb/s offer (at £44.99).

JT Lab is a test bed for ultrafast broadband products and services from technology, media and telecom

absolutely delighted to be the first to experience gigabit broadband speeds as well. JT is certainly putting us on par with the Scandinavian countries."

The island is currently also being promoted as a unique test bed, known as JT Lab, for ultrafast broadband products and services from technology, media and telecom companies. JT Lab offers real-time user feedback from consumers and businesses, as well as access to highly skilled technical, engineering and project management support resources. Nasdaq-quoted Chinese Internet television company UTStarcom has already signed up, and JT recently signed a second contract with Radware, also a NASDAQ-quoted company which specialises in network security.

The network will secure new opportunities for Jersey, local businesses and anyone looking to invest in the development of the island's digital economy. Treasury Minister Senator Philip Ozouf has said that superfast broadband supports government plans for economic recovery. The plan also support the States of Jersey's economic diversification and growth strategy, in particular its "Digital Jersey" programme, introduced to drive forward the island's digital economy.

Written in September 2012  
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