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FTTH Council Europe develops practical tool for assessing the environmental impact of fibre networks

Unique sustainable 'FTTH configurator', set to be unveiled at the FTTH Council Europe annual conference February next year, will evaluate the environmental impact of planned fibre deployments.

BRUSSELS — The FTTH Council Europe is devising a software-based evaluation tool that will allow network builders to determine the precise environmental impact of their individual FTTH deployment plans. The new tool, dubbed 'the sustainable FTTH configurator' and conceived to allow its users to model and test the environmental impacts of their specific FTTH services and network designs, will be the first of its kind when it is unveiled at the forthcoming FTTH Council Europe annual conference in Copenhagen on the 11-12th February 2009. This complements the theme of the event which will be: 'Building a Sustainable Future'.

The development of the 'FTTH configurator' extends the work of the FTTH Council Europe's SUDEFIB (Sustainable Development in FTTH) initiative, which began earlier this year with groundbreaking research conducted in collaboration with PricewaterhouseCoopers. The initial SUDEFIB study was based upon average data from FTTH networks across Europe, but this new concept allows individual providers to accurately determine the environmental impact of their own specific FTTH network plans.

The initial SUDEFIB research found conclusive evidence that FTTH is a highly sustainable broadband technology, capable of delivering a positive impact upon the environment within a maximum of 15 years of initial deployments taking place. On an individual subscriber basis, the use of FTTH and the applications enabled by it was found to save the equivalent – in carbon terms – of driving a car 4,600km per year.

“By enabling the model to be used by individual service providers, regional governments and municipalities, we move the analysis to the next level of detail, and straight into the real-world,” said Joeri Van Bogaert, President of the FTTH Council Europe. “This tool will soon be made available through the FTTH Council Europe for use by the increasing swathe of FTTH providers emerging across Europe. It will allow them to put their own range of data into the models, work out the local, real-world payback on local investments, and find improvements to make FTTH even more sustainable. This will generate some very interesting outcomes relating to major new FTTH rollouts, and we are receiving a great deal of interest about it ahead of its official launch in Copenhagen next year.”

Once complete, the tool will allow users to define a variety of parameters such as length of fibre, deployment method, architecture, etc. and will calculate the exact result for each individual network Precise details about the ‘FTTH configurator’ will be made public in February 2009, at the FTTH Council Europe annual conference in Copenhagen.

Source: FTTH Council Europe