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**FTTH Council Europe**  
Feb 27-28, 2008  
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## It's official: Fiber is environmentally friendly

FTTH Council Europe reveals findings of new research

by Kendrick Struthers-Watson

Thu. February 28, 2008

At the FTTH Council Europe event in Paris the results of a unique research exercise evaluating the sustainability and environmental impact of fibre networks were announced.

Joeri Van Bogaert, president of the FTTH Council Europe, said today, "The results clearly demonstrate the overall service and environmental benefits of FTTH. The findings stand as testament that fibre is a sustainable and future-proof technology for the 21st century."

The research compared the environmental impact of a typical FTTH network to its associated benefits and will provide the foundation for further research on the subject by the Council.

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Maximising the opportunity for new services whilst minimising the materials and maintenance required, FTTH contributes to reduced road travel, less transport infrastructure, and the introduction of innovative social and government services. Meanwhile, the total impact of network implementation in the study takes into account the full lifecycle of a typical fibre infrastructure from production of passive equipment, transport, implementation of all active equipment and power consumption to end of life.





Christian Ollivry, Chair of the SUDEFIB Committee (the Council's Sustainable Development and FTTH Committee) comments, "Beyond this 15 year timescale, which is quite conservative, the research shows that FTTH provides only positives for Europe. The results are based on calculations from tele-working and tele-assistance applications only, although FTTH solutions offer extensive social and economical benefits over and above these, with the capability to change societies for the better because of the access to new services it brings."

Using the projection of FTTH users according to IDATE (20 million for 2015) the research found that for the first 15 years of network implementation, greenhouse gas emission savings per user were found to be 330 kg, the equivalent to a car travelling 2,000 kilometers. Moving forward, the sustainability of FTTH solutions will

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