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INDUSTRY NEWSFEED

Feb 11, 2009

Environmental impact of fibre can now be predicted

The FTTH Council Europe today unveils a unique web-based software tool that predicts the impact of Fibre to the Home on such key environmental factors as C02 emissions.

FTTH COUNCIL EUROPE ANNUAL CONFERENCE, COPENHAGEN — The world's only advanced tool for assessing the net environmental impact of FTTH networks is launched today. The SUDEFIB Configurator allows the potential environmental benefit of actual FTTH deployments to be calculated – real world benefits from real world networks – by placing a refined and detailed emissions model in the hands of network planners and operators.

The Configurator was created by the FTTH Council Europe in collaboration with Price Waterhouse Coopers (Ecobilan), and will showcase its first ever public demonstrations today at the FTTH Council Europe's annual conference in Copenhagen.

"The tool strikes an excellent balance between being flexible enough to accommodate all FTTH scenarios, and detailed enough to be meaningful," explained FTTH Council Europe President Van Bogaert. "It is an extremely exciting development because it provides a first true insight into the environmental sustainability of real-world FTTH plans and deployments."

The development of the tool is part of an ongoing work programme conducted by the Council's SUDEFIB ('Sustainable Development in FTTH') committee. Its roots lie in the models created for the original sustainability report released at last year's annual conference, and will support all manner of FTTH service providers in evaluating how their deployments will impact the environment, based upon inputting specific real-world data.

"When our SUDEFIB team first presented its research last year, it outlined aggressive plans for the development of an FTTH Configurator to give providers the power to calculate the results for sustainability on their specific network," added Van Bogaert. "Now, just one year later, this configurator is

available as an essential companion to any FTTH project."

The initial SUDEFIB research, conducted in 2008, found conclusive evidence that FTTH is a highly sustainable broadband technology, capable of delivering a positive impact upon the environment within 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.

The web tool goes further, however. Using the tool, individual service providers, regional governments and municipalities can potentially adjust parameters to ensure their deployments are as environmentally sustainable as possible. By modeling many actual networks, large and small, the FTTH Council Europe hopes to build a comprehensively accurate picture of the environmental benefit of FTTH networks, as well as promoting optimal designs.

Source FTTH Council Europe