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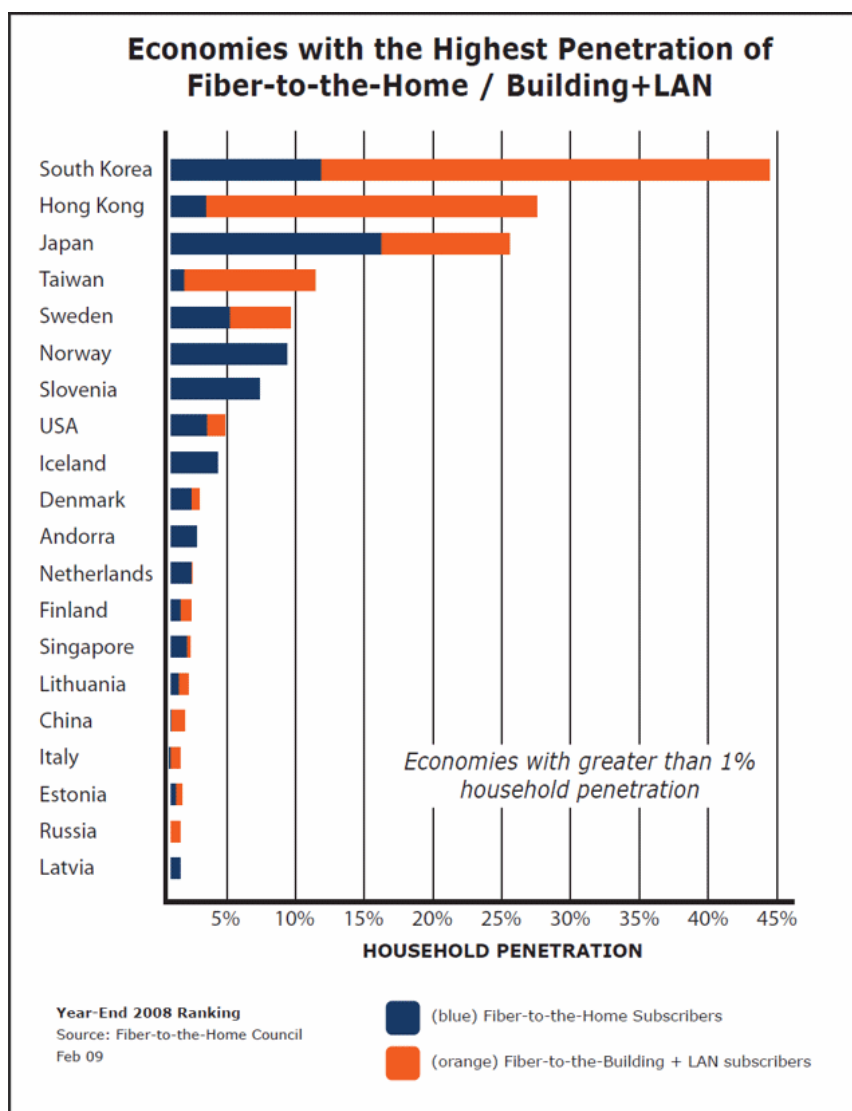
Top 20 Super Fast Fibre Optic Broadband Countries

By: MarkJ - 13 February, 2009 (9:08 AM)

The [FTTH Council Europe](#) has released its latest twice yearly global ranking of countries with significant Fibre to the Home (FTTH) market penetration. It tracks the level of FTTH in economies where more than 1% of households are connected directly into high speed fibre optic broadband networks.

In all, 20 economies met this threshold, up from 14 in July 2008 and 11 in July 2007. Asian economies maintained their leadership, with South Korea (44%), Hong Kong (28%), Japan (27%) and Taiwan (12%) continuing to hold the top four places respectively.

Meanwhile, Japan remains the overall leader in terms of the number of fibre-connected homes at 13.2 million, followed by the United States (6.05 million) and the People's Republic of China (5.96 million). Just don't expect to see the UK on this list, we're not even close:



The growth is largely attributed to the entry of several new European countries into the ranking, with total EU fibre optic broadband subscribers fast approaching the two million mark (currently 1.661 million):

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"It is very encouraging to see four new EU nations joining Russia and Andorra in the new ranking, together nearly doubling Europe's total representation among the top twenty in the world," commented Joeri Van Bogaert, President of the FTTH Council Europe. "It is perhaps more difficult for the largest countries to achieve the ranking, which makes Russia's inclusion particularly exciting and surprising. Across Europe, we are seeing FTTH penetration figures rise as the benefits of fibre become clearer for all."

Sadly Europe still only represents a small portion of the overall fibre optic broadband subscriber base, although the obvious absence of our own country is clearly very worrying. However [BT's](#) £1.5 billion programme to roll out fibre-based, super-fast broadband to as many as 10 million homes by 2012 should help get us on the list eventually.

Mind you FTTH Council Europe are quite picky about which types of fibre optic they choose to include into their statistics, with only true FTTH or FTTB (building) deployments meeting the cut. That's why [Virgin Media](#) doesn't really count as most of its infrastructure is different. Similarly much of [BT's](#) deployment is likely to be FTTC (cabinet) based, which won't count either.

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