

FIBRE HORIZONS

A newsletter of the FTTH Council Europe

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FIBRE HORIZONS is a monthly newsletter published by the FTTH Council Europe and distributed to readers interested in fibre to the home networks and the activities of the Council.



Did You Hear?

“Financing is there for every viable project that we see in the future.”

Hristo Stoykov, Senior Analyst, European Investment Bank, speaking at the FTTH Conference 2011 in Milan, Italy.

[See the interview with Hristo Stoykov at the FTTH Conference >](#)

In the Spotlight:

Financing Fibre to the Home

Funding of next-generation access (NGA) networks is a hot topic. The relatively slow pace of investment by the private sector combined with the difficult business case in rural areas has prompted the European Commission to explore new ways to stimulate both public and private sector investment in broadband infrastructure projects.

Many people do not realise that Europe already has an important source of finance for long-term infrastructure projects, in the shape of the European Investment Bank (EIB). The EIB is a lending institute owned jointly by all 27 EU member states, whose purpose is to finance infrastructure projects that help to meet European policy objectives, such as the Digital Agenda.

Unlike most commercial banks, the EIB has an in-house engineering team that looks very closely at the technology aspects of the project. As a result, being financed by the EIB is viewed as a “quality mark” that can help a company attract further investment. Over the past couple of years, a number of FTTH operators have been supported by the EIB, including Portugal’s three big operators – Portugal Telecom, Sonaecom and ZON Multimedia – and Reggefiber in the Netherlands.

In addition, the Commission has recently opened a consultation on “Europe 2020 Project Bonds” which will provide an alternative to bank loans for companies and public-private partnership ventures carrying out long-term infrastructure projects. The aim is to stimulate additional private sector financing by providing guarantees and other types of credit-enhancement measures that

reduce the risk for third-party investors.

For the public sector, the largest sources of EU funding for infrastructure projects are the Structural Funds, which include the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), the European Social Fund (ESF), and the Cohesion Fund. The total resource allocated to these funds between 2007 and 2013 was €347bn – equivalent to approximately one-third of the EU's total budget.

With these funds coming up for review in the next few years, the Commission has promised to streamline and simplify the financial instruments that can be used to invest in broadband networks. The financial landscape is changing, and there will be new opportunities to invest in fibre networks. It's the ideal time to launch the FTTH Council Europe's new initiative, called "How fibre?", which will investigate and promote successful funding and business models for FTTH networks in Europe.

[Read the press release announcing the new initiative >](#)

[Find out more about Europe 2020 Project Bonds >](#)

Check Out Our New Website!

The FTTH Council Europe website had a makeover. Please take a look at our smart, modern look and tell us what you think. Bookmarked pages from the old website should still work. However, you will need to sign up again to any RSS feeds, including Latest News, Media Update and Press Releases.

[Visit the website now >](#)

Meet the FTTH Council Europe at ANGACable

The FTTH Council Europe has a booth at ANGACable (3-5 May 2011, Cologne, Germany). The booth is located in Hall 10.1, booth number T49. Pass by to pick up the latest copy of the FTTH Business Guide and the FTTH Handbook.

If you want to meet our Director General, Hartwig Tauber, or our Communications Director, Nadia Babaali, please get in touch with our secretariat (info@ftthcouncil.eu). They will coordinate a meeting time.

FTTH Council Europe Publishes Annual Report

The Annual Report describes the considerable achievements of the Council over the past 12 months. With more than 150 member companies and a record-breaking attendance at the FTTH Conference 2011 in Milan, the Council has cemented its position as the voice of authority on FTTH technology and business matters. The report is available from the "resources" section of our website now.

[Read the Annual Report 2010-11 >](#)

Newsbeat

[Fujitsu plans to fibre up rural Britain](#)

[Estonia invites bids from broadband projects](#)

[i3 Africa plans to connect 2.5m homes in South Africa](#)

[And the winner is: Kansas City](#)

[Qatar government sets up national broadband company](#)

[Telekom Austria opens Vienna fibre network](#)

[133 US cities have their own broadband networks](#)

Upcoming FTTH Council Europe Events

FTTH Conference 2012 NEW DATES! The world's largest FTTH Conference will take place on 14—16 February 2012 in Munich, Germany.

More details at: www.ftthconference.eu

Upcoming Industry Events

ANGA Cable Show, 3—5 May, Cologne, Germany

NextGen11 Road Show, 12 May, Edinburgh, UK

CRU's 5th Wire and Cable Conference 2011, 17 May, Amsterdam, Netherlands

FTTH Council LATAM Chapter Annual Conference, 17—19 May, Rio de Janeiro, Brasil

FTTH APAC Annual Conference, 25—26 May, New Delhi, India

6th EETT International Conference, 2—3 June, Athens, Greece

WIK International Conference, 6—7 June, Berlin, Germany

IIR's FTTx Summit, 6—8 June, Berlin, Germany

Breitband+Energieeffizienz=Lichtwellenleitertechnik (BEL 2), 8—9 June, Berlin, Germany



About Us

The FTTH Council Europe is an industry organisation with a mission to accelerate the availability of fibre-based, ultra-high-speed access networks to consumers and businesses.

The Council promotes this technology because it will deliver a flow of new services that enhances the quality of life, contributes to a better environment and increased economic competitiveness. The FTTH Council Europe consists of more than 150 members.

www.ftthcouncil.eu



For general matters, please contact our Secretariat on info@ftthcouncil.eu.

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