

## 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?



"Compared to our international competitors we fall behind on providing fast fibre networks. We need investment across Europe; €180—270 billion worth in fact. The internet is an economic essential for everyone from businesses, small and large, to academia and the creative industries. Fast broadband is the digital oxygen allowing this ecosystem to thrive and grow."

*Neelie Kroes, Vice President of the European Commission  
responsible for the Digital Agenda*

#### In the Spotlight

##### Germany must act now to ensure a high-speed future

Politicians in Germany have plenty to think about right now as the European Union faces the biggest crisis in its history. Can they afford to think about broadband? But considering that better broadband is inextricably linked to economic growth and social prosperity, can they afford not to?

A report published last month, conducted jointly by Ericsson, Arthur D. Little and Chalmers University of Technology, quantified the economic impact of broadband speed for the first time. The researchers found that doubling the broadband speed for an economy increases its GDP by 0.3%.

However, Germany lags its European neighbours in terms of fibre-to-the-home (FTTH), the only future-proof type of broadband. In leading fibre economies like Sweden, Norway and Lithuania, more than 10% of all homes are already using FTTH/B connections. In contrast, just 0.3% of all households in Germany are FTTH/B subscribers (data from June 2011).

If Germany wants to remain a competitive economy in the future, the course needs to be set today. Building a fibre network takes time; several years can pass between the initial decision to build a FTTH network and services becoming available. Whoever claims that there is still enough time to think about FTTH is completely wrong. Especially in a country like Germany, large both in terms of its geographical size and population, plans must be made today in order to ensure a timely solution.

[Read the opinion article](#) (PDF in German) >

## FTTH Conference 2012 is coming to Germany

The location of the FTTH Conference is always carefully chosen, in part to help raise awareness of the potential of FTTH in the host country. In 2012, the world's largest FTTH conference is coming to Germany, and will take place on 14—16 February at the International Congress Centre Munich. Judging by the support from local stakeholders, this conference promises to be a huge success!

The FTTH Conference 2012 has secured the patronage of Bitkom, the German Federal Association for Information Technology, Telecommunications and New Media; and Christian Ude, Lord Mayor of the city of Munich, will address the audience during the official opening ceremony on 15 February. There will be simultaneous interpretation of all sessions into the language of the host country: German.

ALL sponsorships for the FTTH Conference have sold out a little over two months in advance, which is unprecedented in the event's history. This means that there will be a record number of exhibitors. Additionally, demos and displays in the "World of Applications" area will showcase innovative services designed to run over high-speed broadband networks.

Register now for this landmark event. FTTH Council Europe member employees qualify for a promotional rate – contact the [secretariat](#) for details.

**REGISTER NOW**

Don't forget to visit our website [www.ftthconference.eu](http://www.ftthconference.eu) for full details and updates. We look forward to seeing you in February!

## Top five downloads of 2011

Here are the most popular documents of the year from our website:

- [FTTH Business Guide 2011](#)
- [FTTH Handbook 2011](#)
- [Annual Report 2010—2011](#) (PDF 4.9MB)
- [FTTH Market Panorama December 2010](#) (PDF 0.4MB)
- [FTTH Market Forecast December 2010](#) (PDF 63kB)

## Newsbeat

[Telecom Industry Veteran Named to Head FTTH Council North America](#)

[Vodafone Interested in Buying at Least 10% in Italy's Metroweb](#)

[Successful completion of FTTH pilot project for Zurich electricity company](#)

[UK news: B4RN is go!!](#)

[France releases digital economy targets for 2020](#)

[China Flexes Its FTTx Muscle](#)

## ***Upcoming FTTH Council Europe Events***

FTTH Conference 2012

The world's largest FTTH Conference is taking place on 14—16 February in Munich, Germany. Don't delay, register today!  
More details at: [www.ftthconference.eu](http://www.ftthconference.eu)

## **Join our social media communities**

Be first to find out about the latest developments at the FTTH Council Europe by joining our active social media communities. We have 1447 members in our LinkedIn Group, 739 followers on Twitter and 279 “likes” on Facebook – so you'll be in great company!



## **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 enhance the quality of life, contribute to a better environment and increase economic competitiveness. The FTTH Council Europe consists of more than 150 member companies. [www.ftthcouncil.eu](http://www.ftthcouncil.eu)



For general matters, please contact our Secretariat on [info@ftthcouncil.eu](mailto:info@ftthcouncil.eu).

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