

## 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?

**"It is not possible to maximise access while failing on fibre. That is how seriously we take your issues."**

Neelie Kroes, vice-president of the European Commission responsible for the Digital Agenda, speaking to delegates at the FTTH Conference in Milan.

### In the Spotlight:

#### What Services Will Fill the Fat Pipe?

A question we often get asked in the Council is why anyone needs the abundant bandwidth of FTTH. Can we name a service that not only benefits from FTTH, but demands it? We can see that more bandwidth will be needed by extrapolating past bandwidth requirements into the future, but this doesn't really answer the original question. Another possible answer is "applications that haven't been thought of yet", but this is hardly convincing either. In any case, we don't believe it is correct. Innovative companies have already developed applications that work much better over fibre.

Take Link Care Services, for example, one of several application provider companies presenting at the FTTH Conference in Milan earlier this month. Link Care Services provides remote video monitoring for patients with Alzheimer's and other cognitive diseases. Today all of its customers are behind DSL lines, which puts a huge restriction on the system implementation. Each video feed needs 300 kbps, which means that it is only possible to upload two simultaneous feeds to the control centre. "The most important thing for us is to be able to install more than two cameras in a home, so we can monitor all the rooms in the patient's home," explained chief executive Richard Saccone. High quality video feeds are also on his wish list – when an alarm is raised, the agent on duty needs a good image in order to check whether the patient really has a problem.

The FTTH Services Showroom at the conference in Milan provided a unique opportunity to get hands-on experience of next-generation applications, including those from Link Care Services.

The potential of remote healthcare was also shown by Portugal Telecom, which has developed the MediGraf Teleconsultation Solution, a system that allows healthcare professionals to cooperate with each other on a diagnosis, using video conferencing, data sharing and other collaborative online tools. Next-generation TV was another theme – Microsoft showed its Mediaroom TV delivery platform and Fair Play Interactive TV demonstrated new ways to personalise TV content. Other FTTH Services Showroom demonstrations included interactive learning courses from Belearner.com; and remote home monitoring and smart metering solutions from Swedish company Manodo.

“Wow, there are a lot of services you can launch over FTTH,” said Tore Kristoffersen chief technology officer of Swedish ISP Altibox, which has launched a number of next-generation services over its FTTH network, including interactive TV, alarm and energy monitors, and mobile phone offload. His answer gives the biggest clue about how consumers will use FTTH capacity. Some next-generation services will be always-on; others will be accessed simultaneously by different members of the same household. The answer to the question: “what services will fill the fat pipe?” is “all of them”.

[Read the daily conference news updates >](#)

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## Join the Content & Applications Committee

Do you work with next-generation applications and services? If so, then you may be interested in joining the Content and Applications Committee of the FTTH Council Europe.

Launched in 2009, the Content and Applications Committee (formerly New Media Committee) investigates the potential of new applications and content on FTTH networks. Everyone is welcome – you don't need to be a member of the Council in order to get involved in the work of this special committee.

To find out more, contact Committee Chair Paul Schwartz ([paul.schwartz@ftthcouncil.eu](mailto:paul.schwartz@ftthcouncil.eu))

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## Meet the FTTH Council Europe at CeBIT

The FTTH Council Europe has a booth at CeBIT. The booth is located in Hall 13, booth number C39 (Broadband World).

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](mailto:info@ftthcouncil.eu)). They will coordinate a meeting time.

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## Newsbeat

[Movistar launches 100Mbps broadband](#) (in Spanish)

[US unveils national broadband map](#)

[France announces ambitious FTTH plan to pass 15m homes](#) (in French)

[First FTTH offering in sub-Saharan Africa](#)

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## Upcoming FTTH Council Europe Events

**FTTH Conference** SAVE THE DATE for the world's largest FTTH Conference on

**2012**

29 February and 1 March 2012 in Munich, Germany.  
Pre-Conference Workshops will be held on 28 February 2012

More details at: [www.ftthconference.eu](http://www.ftthconference.eu)

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## Upcoming Industry Events

**CEBIT 2011**, 1—5 March, Hannover, Germany

**Transport Networks Russia**, 2011, 2—3 March, Moscow, Russia

**OFC/NFOEC 2011**, 6—10 March, Los Angeles, US

**FTTx Summit Europe 2011**, 11—14 April, London, UK

**Fiber Optics Expo (FOE)**, 13—15 April, Tokyo, Japan

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## 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.

<http://www.ftthcouncil.eu>



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

The press contact is Nadia Babaali, Communications Director,  
[nadia.babaali@ftthcouncil.eu](mailto:nadia.babaali@ftthcouncil.eu).

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FTTH Council Europe ASBL, Excelsiorlaan 91, 1939 Zaventem, Belgium  
Tel: + 43 699 19081622, Fax +43 2855 71142