

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?

"The most interesting thing about the FTTH market is the wide gap between pioneers and laggards. The difference is about 15 years. No other technology market displays such a huge disparity."

Graham Finnie, Senior Analyst, Heavy Reading, speaking to delegates at the FTTH Conference in Milan last month.

In the Spotlight:

The Race to Fibre Maturity

"Fibre maturity" is an interesting concept that recognises the point at which a country attains 20% household penetration of FTTH. Introduced by Heavy Reading, it provides a new way to measure the progress of European nations in their fibre deployment plans. The projected date when a country will reach fibre maturity now forms part of the firm's annual FTTH Market Forecast.

The latest FTTH Forecast was unveiled during the closing session of the FTTH Conference 2011 in Milan. Heavy Reading predicts that just over 32 million households will be connected to FTTH or FTTB by the end of 2015 in the 38 countries covered by the forecast; 19 million of those will be in the EU. Russia will be the largest market by a long mark, with 9.1 million FTTH subscribers in 2015.

For the second year running, the forecast has been downgraded slightly. In other words, telecom operators have slipped 4-5 months further behind schedule in their deployment plans.

"Incumbents, alternative operators and municipal builders are all missing their targets," says Graham Finnie, Chief Analyst, Heavy Reading.

The demand for higher bandwidth is solid, he says. Data from Akamai and others firms tracking internet access speeds show that both the actual and average advertised connection speeds

continue to rise. Demand for products that are likely to lead consumers to purchase higher bandwidth, such as HDTVs and media-intensive computers, is also strong. Many more homes have been passed with fibre, and so penetration could climb strong with good marketing.

Public-sector debts, lack of regulatory clarity, and poor marketing have all contributed to delayed deployment and missed adoption targets. Finnie also pointed out that the majority of incumbents are committed to VDSL to counter the competitive threat from cable; few incumbents have a FTTH vision. In contrast to most other regions of the world, in Europe the incumbents are not currently the major providers of FTTH, and this will remain the case over the next ten years.

Seven of the 21 nations individually analysed should achieve fibre maturity by 2015 – Slovenia, Sweden, Denmark, Norway, Finland, Portugal and Slovakia – while five more are expected to attain this status the following year. However, the study forecasts that eight of the 21 nations will still have less than 10% penetration at the end of 2015 – Greece, UK, Poland, Belgium, Spain, Germany, Italy and the Czech Republic. The majority of the laggards will reach fibre maturity status by the end of the decade, but one – the UK – could take even longer, according to Finnie.

[See the FTTH Forecast presentation >](#)

FTTH Council Europe General Assembly on 30 & 31 March in Amsterdam

The FTTH Council Europe will hold its spring General Assembly on 30&31 March in Amsterdam. The Agenda includes high level presentations from Portugal Telecom, BEREC, Heavy Reading and the case study from UNET. The strategy for 2011 will be presented and discussed and several positions of the Board of Directors will be elected by the General Assembly.

The meeting is open to all members of the FTTH Council Europe. Further information is available from our secretariat info@ftthcouncil.eu.

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 partners with SAMENA Telecommunication Council

On 8 February the FTTH Council Europe signed a memorandum of understanding with the SAMENA Telecommunications Council, which outlines how the two organisations will work together to accelerate the adoption of fibre-to-the-home in the South Asia, Middle East, and North Africa regions.

Chris Holden, President of the FTTH Council Europe, and Thomas Wilson, Chief Executive and Managing Director of SAMENA, signed the agreement during the pre-conference dinner of the FTTH Council Europe's annual Conference in Milan in the presence of sister FTTH Council representatives.

[Read the press release >](#)

Newsbeat

[One in ten new broadband connections in Spain are FTTH](#) (in Spanish)

[Report: A world of fibre](#)

[Telmex deploys FTTH in Mexico](#) (in Spanish)

[Deutsche Telekom outlines FTTH plans](#)

Upcoming FTTH Council Europe Events

FTTH Conference 2012

SAVE THE DATE for the world's largest FTTH Conference on 15 & 16 February 2012 in Munich, Germany. Pre-Conference Workshops will be held on 14 February 2012

More details at: www.ftthconference.eu

Upcoming Industry Events

[FTTx Summit Europe 2011](#), 11—14 April, London, UK

[ERISA Annual Conference 2011](#), 12-14 April, Krakow, Poland

[Fiber Optics Expo \(FOE\)](#), 13—15 April, Tokyo, Japan

[Finnish Regional Networks Association Spring Conference](#), 27-29 April, Helsinki, Finland - Stockholm, Sweden

[ANGA Cable Show](#), 3—5 May, Cologne, Germany

[CRU's 5th Wire and Cable Conference 2011](#), 17 May, Amsterdam, Netherlands



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>



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

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