

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?

"Governments want to reap the financial and social benefits of eHealth. Many, however, have yet to facilitate the construction of the FTTH infrastructure on which the next century of healthcare delivery will depend. When healthcare ministers sit down in Hungary, they should bear in mind that the answer to their questions will come more easily once they have a future-proof, nationwide FTTH infrastructure in place."

Hartwig Tauber, Director General, FTTH Council Europe

In the Spotlight:

Laying the Digital Foundation for eHealth

Earlier this month, European policy makers, healthcare professionals, medical technology experts and researchers gathered in Budapest in Hungary for eHealth week – the largest pan-European conference on healthcare. A wide range of stakeholders are seeking a common solution to a global problem: how can health care providers use information and communication technologies to cut the rising cost of healthcare delivery and improve service at the same time?

According to the European Commission, the number of Europeans aged over 65 is expected to rise by 45% over the next 20 years, from 85 million in 2008 to 123 million in 2030. The related rise in chronic conditions will also increase the stress on social and care services. The cost of providing healthcare has been steadily increasing over the last ten years, with EU countries spending, on average, 8.3% of their GDP on health in 2008, up from 7.3% in 1998. A new approach to healthcare is needed to prevent costs spiralling out of control.

The rise in age-related and chronic diseases changes the way that healthcare is delivered, with the focus shifting from hospital visits to long-term patient monitoring. This is where telemedicine could play an important role, providing access to medical data and services over communications networks. Patients could discuss scan results with a consultant via video link at the local doctor's office, have a check-up from the comfort of their own home, or have their vital signs monitored remotely over their broadband connection.

Countries that are investing in fibre-to-the-home, such as the Netherlands, Portugal and Sweden, have already started to show us what can be achieved using telemedicine over secure, digital

fibre networks. You will find examples of innovative digital healthcare programs in the case studies published by the FTTH Council Europe.

But there is much more work to do. Many countries do not have the fibre networks necessary to support the widespread use of telemedicine services. Surely, policy makers must understand that without this digital foundation, it will be difficult to meet the targets on the eHealth agenda.

[Read the opinion article on eHealth >](#)

New FTTH Case Studies Published

Five new FTTH case studies are now available online. The first is the story of Teo, the incumbent operator in Lithuania, which has built a FTTH network that covers half of all households in the country, promoting the nation to number one position in the European FTTH Rankings. The second is about the Principality of Andorra, where the incumbent operator has already deployed FTTH to every household (52,000 homes) and plans to decommission the copper network as soon as possible. The third is the account of Pau-Pyrénées, an association of communities in the south-west of France, which took the decision to go for FTTH back in 2003 when the business case was still untested. The fourth is about the region of Ostrobothnia, situated on the west coast of Finland, where the Regional Council takes the lead in Finland's rural fibre. The most recent addition to our library of case studies is on Russia's Cable TV-operator ER Telecom, which has installed fibre-to-the-building networks in 31 Russian cities, bringing high-speed internet within reach of 5 million homes.

[Read the Teo case study \(PDF\) >](#)

[Read the Andorra Telecom case study \(PDF\) >](#)

[Read the Pau-Pyrénées case study \(PDF\) >](#)

[Read the Ostrobothnia case study \(PDF\) >](#)

[Read the ER Telecom case study \(PDF\) >](#)

FTTH Conference 2012 Munich - Exhibitors: Unprecedented Success

The sign up period for exhibitors for the FTTH Conference 2012 in Munich started on 9 May and already more than 60 member companies have signed up for a booth. The 18 Gold sponsorships are sold out! For further information about the FTTH Conference 2012, please go to www.ftthconference.eu

Newsbeat

[Abu Dhabi first city in world to get full fibre-optic coverage](#)

[French government shares out €2m investment in FTTH](#) (in French)

[Turkcell Superonline boosts speeds to 1Gbps](#)

[Lithuania's TEO upgrades services to 300Mbps](#)

[GiPPa aims to speed up FTTH construction in the Netherlands](#) (in Dutch)

[New Zealand FTTH companies may enjoy regulatory holiday](#)

Upcoming FTTH Council Europe Events

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

More details at: www.ftthconference.eu

Upcoming Industry Events

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

Arab Advisors' 8th Media and Telecoms Convergence Conference, 6—7 June, Amman, Jordan

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

FTTx and Next Generation Access Summit, 6—8 June, Berlin, Germany

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

NextGen 11 Essex Road Show, 21 June, Essex, UK

Glasfasernetze FTTX für EVU, 27—29 June, Berlin, Germany

NextGen 11 Nottingham Road Show, 6 July, Nottingham, UK

NOC/OC&I 2011, 20—22 July, Newcastle Upon Tyne, UK



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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