

## 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?



“Increasingly governments around the world see very high-speed broadband infrastructure as the most cost-effective way to provide services that reinvigorate rural areas.”

*Nadia Babaali, Communications Director, FTTH Council Europe*

#### In the Spotlight

##### Bridging the urban-rural digital divide

Although high-speed broadband serves all sectors of society, its benefits are arguably greatest in rural areas, argues Nadia Babaali, Communications Director of the FTTH Council Europe.

Case studies carried out by the FTTH Council Europe describe some of the many ways that rural communities benefit from better communications infrastructure – it leads to the creation of new jobs and businesses, encourages young people and those of employment age to stay in the community, and ultimately boosts local economic growth and prosperity.

And let’s not forget the provision of local services. Today’s economic climate does not lend itself to heavy investment in widespread education, health and transport infrastructure. That is why, increasingly, governments around the world see broadband infrastructure as the most cost-effective way to provide services that reinvigorate rural areas.

Some authorities are looking to use wireless broadband to connect rural areas, but this is not a long-term solution. The capacity of wireless networks is inherently constrained and the latency (response time) is typically quite poor. Wireless broadband will be hard pushed to meet the needs of modern businesses or the requirements of online services like remote healthcare and education which are based on real-time interaction and use cloud-based resources.

Policy makers need to understand that rural zones require a technological solution that is the equal to that provided in urban areas – namely fibre to the home with its practically unlimited capacity.

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

Also available in other languages: [\[FR\]](#) [\[DT\]](#) [\[HU\]](#) [\[IT\]](#) [\[PL\]](#) [\[PT\]](#) [\[ES\]](#)

## Interview: FTTH Council Europe President Chris Holden

Chris Holden talks about his experiences as president of the FTTH Council Europe over the past 18 months, how the FTTH market in Europe has changed over that period, and why regulation matters.



[Watch the video on our YouTube channel](#) (PDF) >

## Fibre Speed Tool re-launched

How fast is your broadband compared to alternative technologies? The FTTH Council Europe has just re-launched its popular Fibre Speed Tool, which provides a visual answer to this question. The original version of the tool, released in 2009, compared different types of broadband connection by showing how long it would take to download or upload a song, a photo album or a movie. The new tool takes two inputs – your download and upload speeds – and runs a simulation to compare your connection with other technologies, including ADSL, mobile broadband and, of course, FTTH.

[Try out the Fibre Speed tool](#) (PDF) >

## Simultaneous Interpretation into German at FTTH Conference 2012

The FTTH Conference 2012 will have simultaneous interpretation of all sessions into the language of the host country: German. The conference, which will be held on 14—16 February at the International Congress Centre Munich is under the patronage of Bitkom, the German Federal Association for Information Technology, Telecommunications and New Media.

Gold and Silver sponsorships have already sold out, indicating that the conference will be a worthy successor to last year's event in Milan. To register, simply click the orange button. 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 at the event in February!

## Newsbeat

[Orange, SFR join forces on fibre broadband](#)

[KPN to acquire full control of Reggefiber](#)

[BT fibre broadband cable UK rollout accelerated](#)

[New agreement secures fibre-optic expansion in Basel](#)

[Telekom Austria Group Launches Fibre in Two Districts in Vienna](#)

[CityFibre appoints Macquarie Capital to realise its vision for UK-wide NGA](#)

[Croatian incumbent in deadlock with regulator over fibre](#)

## 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)

## Upcoming Industry Events

[ECTA's 12th Annual Regulatory Conference](#) 28—30 November, Brussels, Belgium

[8<sup>th</sup> Broadband Forum](#) 29—30 November, Warsaw, Poland

[FTTH Council MENA Conference 2011](#), 30 November – 1 December, Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt

[SEE Telecoms 2011](#), 6 December, Zagreb Croatia

[ZVEI Kompetenztreff Kommunikationsinfrastruktur](#), 6 December, Osnabrück, Germany

[FttX Congres 2011](#), 7 December, Utrecht, The Netherlands

## 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 1400 members in our LinkedIn Group, more than 700 followers on Twitter and 270 “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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*Feel free to forward to colleagues and friends.*

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