

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?

"We need FTTH to meet the needs and demands of 21st Century societies."

Dr. Peter Cochrane, engineer, entrepreneur, futurologist and consultant

In the Spotlight: Dr. Peter Cochrane

Peter Cochrane knows a thing or two about fibre-to-the-home. The former research director and chief technologist for BT Laboratories was working on the front line as the UK incumbent developed, tested and trialled two different options for FTTH in the late 1980s. "By 1990 it was clear that FTTH was not only cost effective against installed and new copper, it afforded huge savings in building stock, equipment, people and truck rolls," he recalls.

Pushed to its full potential, FTTH could reduce the operating costs of the local network by 80%, Cochrane contends. This would include the closure of the public switched telephone network (PSTN), the abandonment of street furniture, the removal of all intermediate electronics in the last miles, and much more. In short, the access network would be completely reinvented, and not everyone was ready for that...

BT started to deploy FTTH in 1991 and cancelled the programme in the same year. While operators in the Far East pushed ahead with their FTTH deployment plans, in Europe it took well over 20 years for the world of government, regulation and industry to get the picture, according to Cochrane.

"Looking back it is hard to think of another telecom technology that has seen more debate, more vacillation, and less real action than FTTH," he muses. "But now I think we can safely assume that we have a green light." With bandwidth consumption continuing to grow unchecked, Europe has no alternative but to find a way to deploy FTTH on a mass scale.

Why did it take so long for Europe to wake up to FTTH? Why is FTTH so fundamentally important today? Peter Cochrane will reveal all during his keynote presentation at the FTTH Conference

2012.

[Read our written interview with Peter Cochrane >](#)

Countdown to the FTTH Conference 2012

With just 2 weeks to go, we're starting to get really excited about the FTTH Conference 2012. We hope you plan to join us on 14–16 February at the International Congress Centre Munich for the world's largest FTTH conference and exhibition.

Come and hear three days of high-quality workshops and seminars offering expert insights into the latest technology and developments in the world of FTTH. The conference programme is taking shape beautifully; details of all the presentations and speakers are in the [programme](#).

Gain access to more than 100 exhibitors, including the "World of Applications", a special exhibition area that will showcase innovative services designed to run over high-speed broadband networks. Registered guests can also make appointments with our sponsors via our [online networking system](#).

To register, simply [visit our website](#). Media representatives are invited free of charge and FTTH Council Europe member employees qualify for a promotional rate – contact the [secretariat](#) for details. Register now and benefit from the preferential rate of advance online registration.

REGISTER NOW

The FTTH Conference 2012 is taking place under the patronage of Bitkom, the German Federal Association for Information Technology, Telecommunications and New Media. There will be simultaneous interpretation of all sessions into the language of the host country: German.

Visit our website www.ftthconference.eu for full details and updates.

Three new case studies available

Our latest three FTTH case studies show different ways that local government can take an active role in bringing FTTH to the people it serves. The government of the Principality of Asturias in northern Spain tapped into European, national and regional funds to create a public operator to build FTTH in rural communities with more than 1000 people. In Munich, the city-owned utility company Stadtwerke München took a stake in regional network operator M-net, and together they plan to bring FTTH to 50% of the city by 2013. And in Bóly City in Hungary (population 3,888) the local authority invested its own money directly in the network and now acts as the service provider.

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

[Read the M-net case study \(PDF\) >](#)

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

Newsbeat

[Point Topic: Global broadband subscribers inch up to 600 million](#)

[Swiss regulator ComCom: our FTTH goals have been achieved](#)

[TDC admits that copper cannot provide high-speed internet](#) (in Danish)

[NetCologne and Deutsche Telekom in network cooperation agreement](#) (in German)

[IFNL Brings Superfast Broadband to Over 50,000 Properties in 20 UK Regions](#)

[KPN increases FTTH speeds to 500Mbps](#) (in Dutch)

From 1 April 2012, all new buildings in France must be equipped with optical fibre (in French)

Property Group DAIG and Deutsche Telekom Conclude Strategic Partnership

Bouygues Telecom signs fibre sharing agreement with Orange (in French)

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

Join our social media communities

Be the first to find out the latest developments at the FTTH Council Europe by joining our active social media communities. We already have 1200 members in our LinkedIn Group, over 600 followers on Twitter and 230 "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 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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