

## FIBRE HORIZONS

### A newsletter of the FTTH Council Europe

#### Vol. 3, Issue 8 – October 2012

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.

We have reached more than 5,000 readers this month. Thank you for your loyalty!

#### Did You Hear?



“I’ve had a 100 Mbps symmetrical fibre connection since 2003. Myself, my wife and our two kids all use it a lot, often all at the same time, and we don’t even think about it anymore. We just take broadband for granted.”

*Tobias Ahl, CEO of Swedish systems integrator Rala Infratech*

#### In the Spotlight

##### Spain and Luxembourg join the fibre elite

Drum roll... two new countries have joined the European FTTH Ranking, including one of the major European economies. There are now 22 economies in Europe where more than 1% of households have a fibre connection. (Our definition of Europe includes the EU27 plus Andorra, Croatia, Iceland, Israel, Macedonia, Norway, Serbia, Switzerland, and Turkey.)

In the last six months, the region saw solid growth in the number of FTTH/B subscribers, reaching 32 million homes passed and 5.95 million subscribers by the end of June 2012. Russia also saw a significant increase with 15.8 million homes passed and 5.2 million taking a fibre subscription.

Spain entered the ranking at 20<sup>th</sup> position with household penetration of 1.42% following a 44% increase in the number of FTTH/B subscribers in the first six months of 2012. Despite the country’s challenging economic situation, telecom operators such as Telefónica, Orange Spain and cable operator Ono, amongst others, have continued to invest in fibre.

The other new entrant in the ranking was Luxembourg in 19<sup>th</sup> place with household penetration of 1.45%. State-owned operator P&T Luxembourg working towards ambitious government objectives: to pass 80% of all homes with 100Mbps by end 2013, and 100% of homes by the end of 2015.

[Read the press release](#) (PDF) >

## Opinion: Europe should choose future-proof broadband now!

Internet, broadband and next-generation information and telecommunications are the pillars upon which Europe's future economic and social prosperity will be built, says Karin Ahl, President of the FTTH Council Europe. If we make the right decisions today, then Europe can emerge from the current economic crisis as a strong player in the global market. But that's a big "if". Although political leaders in Brussels have clearly stated their expectations in the Digital Agenda, national and local government are starting to question those objectives. In a new opinion article, Karin counters those objections and explains why it is so important that Europe rises to the digital challenge.

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

## Join our webinar on "Regulatory policy and FTTH roll-out"

Monday 29 October from 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM CET

FTTH networks are expected to play a key role in meeting the European Commission's Digital Agenda targets for roll-out and take up of ultra-fast broadband by 2020. However, to date, deployment of such networks has been limited. This is not surprising, as significant sunk cost and substantial uncertainty make the business case for investing in fibre challenging. With a potentially very strong public policy case for migrating from copper to fibre access networks, there is an intense debate about what policy makers might do to promote such investment.

In this webinar, we will discuss why the existing regulatory framework in Europe may not be conducive for investment in FTTH networks and explore potential solutions that may better encourage such investment.

Joining the webinar is free of charge, just register here:

<https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/376881666>

## Reminder: Join our 'I WANT FIBRE' campaign

Tired of your slow internet connection? Want fibre-to-the-home? You're not alone! Join us in our mission to spread the word about why fibre is so fantastic. We've set up a new page on Facebook so "Like" our page, and then share it with friends and family.

We're inviting everyone to post photos of themselves, family and children, friends and colleagues, alone or in a group, with a clear "I want fibre" message. The medium is entirely up to you – it could be a homemade T-shirt, hat, poster or sign. We are looking for entertaining and inspiring photos, so let your imagination go!

Links to articles and photos are also welcome.

We particularly welcome contributions from teenagers.

[Visit our Facebook campaign now](#) >

(You will need to log in to your Facebook account.)



## CEO interview: Tobias Ahl of Rala Infratech

This month, we talk to Tobias Ahl, CEO of systems integrator Rala Infratech based in Sweden. Rala has been involved in a variety of FTTH projects in Sweden and is expanding into other countries across Europe. Tobias gives his views on why it is important to increase consumer awareness about the possibilities of fast broadband, and what incumbents stand to lose if they don't embrace FTTH.

[Read the interview with Tobias Ahl](#) (PDF) >

## Have you registered for the FTTH Conference 2013?

Join us for the 10<sup>th</sup> edition of the annual FTTH Conference, the world's largest event dedicated to fibre-to-the-home, to be held on 19-21 February 2013 at the ExCeL exhibition centre in London.

To register, simply click the orange button. FTTH Council Europe member employees qualify for a promotional rate – contact the secretariat for details on [info@ftthcouncil.eu](mailto:info@ftthcouncil.eu).

**REGISTER NOW**

Every year, the Council makes a €3 “green” donation for each paying attendee to a local environmental charity. The recipient will be The Carbon Trust, an organisation devoted to helping the public sector and businesses move towards a sustainable, low-carbon economy.

We look forward to seeing you in February!

## Newsbeat

[US Update: Small Telecom Providers Lead Continued Expansion of All-Fiber Networks](#)

[Telecom Italia says access network spin-off "interesting"](#)

[Numericable accélère son déploiement de la fibre](#) (in French)

[Deutsche Telekom plans to double super-fast broadband connections by 2016](#)

[New ISP 'Gigler' launches gigabit broadband services in Bournemouth](#)

[WSJ: Web Rivals Want What Google Got](#)

[IET Holding to build rural broadband network in Germany](#)

## Upcoming Events

The FTTH Council Europe will be speaking or exhibiting at the following events:

17-19 October: [EEBC 2012](#) in Kyiv, Ukraine

22-24 October: [Internetdagarna 2012](#) in Stockholm, Sweden

23-25 October: [Premier congrès francophone des applications des fibres optiques](#) in Paris, France

24-25 October: [Euro CMG-Tagung 2012](#) in Vienna, Austria

31 October – 1 November: [Finnish Regional Networks Assoc. Autumn Seminar](#) in Imatra, Finland

6-8 November: [Broadband Traffic Management Congress](#) in London, UK

12-15 November: [FTTH Council Africa Conference](#) in Cape Town, South Africa

13-15 November: [Smart City Expo World Congress](#) in Barcelona, Spain

14-15 November: [DigiWorld Summit 2012](#) in Montpellier, France

15 November: [2<sup>nd</sup> Workshop on Municipal Fiber Networks](#) in Ghent, Belgium

20-21 November: [Broadband Russia Forum 2012](#) in Moscow, Russia

22-23 November: [Southeast Europe Business Forum](#) in Istanbul, Turkey

26-28 November: [ECTA Regulatory Conference 2012](#) in Brussels, Belgium

As the European Commission considers new rules aimed at enhancing the broadband investment environment, the European Competitive Telecommunications Association's annual conference will explore how different regulatory approaches and business models have shaped the European telecommunications market, and what steps are needed to deliver advanced communications infrastructure and competitive services across the single market to consumers and businesses. In a series of keynote speeches, workshops and panels, high-level policy makers and industry leaders will debate key policy questions.



## 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 about 2,552 members in our LinkedIn Group, 1100 followers on Twitter and more than 430 "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).

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

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*Feel free to forward it to colleagues and friends.*

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