

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?



"There are a number of areas for European Commission and the EIB to collaborate on and infrastructure is at the top of the list. Europe is lagging to a large degree compared to other areas in terms of infrastructure investments. There is a huge need for Europe to build up 21st Century type of broadband infrastructure."

Harald Gruber, European Investment Bank

In the Spotlight

The Separation Debate

Disruptive technologies require disruptive policy approaches if they are to achieve their potential. That's the view of Dr. Karl-Heinz Neumann from the WIK Institute in Germany, who spoke at the FTTH Investors Day workshop in Vienna, Austria, on 7 October.

Organised by the FTTH Council Europe in partnership with consultancy firm Arthur D Little, the event brought together potential investors with regulators, policy makers and FTTH project managers to discuss how Europe can bridge the broadband "investment gap". Over €200 billion in new investments are needed to reach Digital Agenda broadband targets by 2020.

FTTH is a disruptive technology, and structural separation - achieved by moving the operator's network assets into a separate legal entity - would most certainly be a disruptive change. That's one reason that regulators have been reluctant to pursue it in the past. However, structural separation would also create opportunities to better match investor requirements with asset profiles, and allow governments to concentrate their investment in national infrastructure assets, speakers said.

Neumann proposed that the German government sell its shares in the incumbent so that it could create a fibre holding company to invest in infrastructure in rural areas. A speaker from Diffraction Analysis argued in more general terms that the spin-out of a telco's infrastructure assets, backed up by a copper-to-fibre migration plan, would be attractive to all stakeholders, including governments, investors and shareholders alike.

New Zealand, Australia and Singapore have been bold enough to try structural separation, but it's difficult to draw conclusions about whether this approach would work in Europe. One thing is clear: structural separation is likely to remain the topic of discussion for some time to come.

Selected presentations from the workshop can be downloaded from our website.

[Download selected presentations \(ZIP\) >](#)

[Watch the Investors Day highlights on YouTube >](#)

Webinar: Structural Separation: A Solution to Boost FTTH Investment

Tuesday, 18 November, 11 am - 12 pm CET

In this webinar, Benoît Felten, CEO and co-founder of Diffraction Analysis, will examine Structural Separation from a financial angle and explain how an incumbent split between a long-term infrastructure arm and a short-term service arm would be better suited to invest in fibre. The webinar will demonstrate that the value created by such a separation for the shareholders would be significant and at the same time free up cash flows for real NGA investment. The presentation will examine examples of structural separation around the world and show that it's nothing like the apocalypse predicted by incumbent lobbyists.

REGISTER NOW

Register for the FTTH Conference 2015

Registration is now open for the world's largest FTTH event.

The 12th edition of the FTTH Conference 2015, which will be held in Warsaw's international exhibition centre EXPO XXI from 10 to 12 February 2015.

With the theme "Creating a Connected Continent", the conference features a packed programme from high-level speakers. Topics include: FTTH in Central and Eastern Europe; next-generation services including eHealth, eGovernment, eLearning; financing and marketing of FTTH networks; the role of FTTH in smart cities and smart regions; and more.

The FTTH Council Europe has received exceptional support from the host country. High-level officials from the Polish Government have confirmed that they will speak at the conference's opening session on 11 February.

Visit our new FTTH Conference 2015 website for more information: www.ftthconference.eu

This year we have also launched a new and improved registration tool, which should make the registration process easier to complete. Just click the button below to begin the process:

REGISTER HERE

#Run4Fibre launches on Gimme Fibre Day

Gimme Fibre Day on 4 November 2014 is just a few days away. This annual celebration highlights how fibre access networks have positively impacted communities across the world. Visit www.gimmefibre.eu to see what activities people have planned for this special day!

This year the FTTH Council Europe is launching the #run4fibre Facebook competition on 4 November. Can you run 10km faster than your Internet connection can download a 10MB image? Does it take you longer to upload that home movie to the cloud than it does to run a marathon?

The #run4fibre competition is open from 4 November to 4 February 2015. Over these three months, we invite people to show us how far they can go by posting runs (tracked with any running app) on their Facebook page with the hashtag #run4fibre. Prizes include a Polar V800 or the new Apple Watch. Whoever runs the furthest over the three months, wins!

Follow the event with us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/iwantfibre

Influencers' Views: Magdalena Gaj

Magdalena Gaj is President of the Office of Electronic Communications (UKE) in Poland. In our interview, she answers questions on a wide range of topics including the status of broadband access in Poland, the potential contribution of FTTH over the next 10 years, and the contribution of ICT to the economy. And, as head of the national regulatory authority, naturally she has strong opinions on regulatory issues such the contribution of public-private partnerships and structural separation. To find out more, read our interview.

[Read the interview with Magdalena Gaj \(PDF\) >](#)

Newsbeat

[Opinion: FTTH is possible in rural areas, but we need to think differently](#)

[Killer Apps in the Digital Age](#)

[ESB and Vodafone's €450m fibre joint venture gets EU green light](#)

[XG-PON deployment by Telefonica supports 1-Gbps FTTH](#)

[Europe joins Japan in €12m drive to create the Gigabit Games](#)

[eircom to Offer Gigabit Broadband Speeds](#)

Upcoming events

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

3 - 5 November: [Capacity Europe 2014](#) in Amsterdam, Netherlands



11 - 12 November: [Nextgen 14](#) in Derby, UK

18 - 20 November: [ECTA Regulatory Conference 2014](#) in Brussels, Belgium



As key institutional changes take place at EU level and digital issues rank high on the European Commission's agenda, a stock-taking exercise on the achievements of the EU pro-competitive model will soon begin. The European Competitive Telecommunications Association's annual conference will contribute to this exercise by shedding light on the performance of the EU telecommunications sector, exploring industry success stories and fostering debate on completion of the Digital and Telecoms Single Market and the future of telecoms in Europe for consumers and industry alike.

18 - 20 November: [Digiworld Summit 2014](#) in Montpellier, France



24 - 25 November: [FTTH Conference 2014 MENA](#) in Dubai, UAE

27 - 28 November: [Broadband Forum Russia 2014](#) in Moscow, Russia

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. Right now we have nearly 5,000 members in our LinkedIn Group, 2,405

followers on Twitter and 1,394 "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

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

The press contact is Nadia Babaali, Communications Director, nadia.babaali@ftthcouncil.eu.

To become a member click [here](#).

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