

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?



"Promoting fibre today is primarily about marketing: people must have the opportunity to experience it for themselves. If we do this properly, end users will demand FTTH in the future"

Wim De Waele, CEO, iMinds

In the Spotlight

Gigabits and Economic Growth

A new U.S. study quantifies fibre to the home's contribution to jobs and the economy. It is well known that the Internet has been an economic catalyst, boosting productivity and innovation, creating jobs and raising incomes around the world. Numerous studies have documented the benefits of "the first transformative leap in Internet connectivity", as always-on broadband replaced dial-up. Now the preliminary results of a study carried out by consultancy firm Analysis Group for the FTTH Council Americas point to a definite and quantifiable impact of next-generation speeds.

Specifically, they studied communities in the U.S. with access to gigabit speeds - the sort of speed only available over a fibre network - representing a 100-fold increase in Internet throughput speeds for households and small businesses. The study examined the relationship between availability of gigabit broadband services and economic activity at the community level.

"The study results suggest that gigabit broadband communities exhibit a per capita GDP approximately 1.1 percent higher than the similar communities with little to no availability of gigabit services. In dollar terms, this suggests that the 14 gigabit broadband communities studied enjoyed approximately \$1.4 billion in additional GDP when gigabit broadband became widely available," said Heather Gold, president of the FTTH Council Americas.

"Every community should be a gigabit community," she concluded.

[Read more and download the study >](#)

UK government report sets GBit/s targets

The British Labour Party has presented their "Number One in Digital" report, which includes 82 recommendations to transform Britain into a digital world-leader through investment and reform in infrastructure, investment, regulation, skills and public services.

The report calls for a new national programme led by a Digital Board of Britain's digital leaders, reporting to the Prime Minister, to guide this change over the next decade. A key topic is a national focus on connectivity. The report asks for 1 GBit/s to all homes and offices and 10 GBit/s to business hubs like Tech City. Setting a target on 1 GBit/s means that there is a strong requirement for FTTH/B.

"The FTTH Council Europe welcomes the positive discussion around the 'Number One in Digital' report," says FTTH Council Europe President Karin Ahl. "By clearly embracing the 1 Gbit/s target for households, it seems that the UK has now recognized the need for fibre to the premise. The FTTH Council Europe has been pushing for an accelerated deployment of fibre to the home or at least to the building for 10 years now. By bringing our annual conference to London in 2013 we tried to create a 'UK-FTTH-push'. It is great to see that this message has now been heard."

[Read more and download the full report >](#)

What are YOU planning for Gimme Fibre Day?

Every year on 4 November, people all over the world celebrate fibre to the home. Why? Simply because FTTH is the only future-proof broadband access solution and it can bring tremendous benefits to individuals and their communities around the world! Join us and help spread the word; organise something; make yourself heard.

Visit our new website to download free promotional materials, and tell us what activities you have planned. You can also find out what other people will be doing!

[Visit the Gimme Fibre Day website >](#)

Register for the FTTH Conference 2015

Preparations are well underway for 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.

The theme of the 2015 Warsaw event is "Creating a Connected Continent".

The FTTH Council Europe has received exceptional support from the host country. The event has secured patronages from three Polish Government ministries.

The Polish Ministry of Infrastructure and Development (MIR - Ministerstwo Infrastruktury i Rozwoju) recently granted patronage to the event. The support is in addition to patronage from Poland's Ministry of Administration and Digitization (MAC - Ministerstwo Administracji i Cyfryzacji) and the telecoms regulator, Office of Electronic Communications (UKE - Urząd Komunikacji Elektronicznej).

High-level officials from the Polish Government have confirmed that they will speak at the conference's opening session on 11 February.

The FTTH Conference 2015 website has been updated with the latest information, and registration will open soon.

[Visit the conference website >](#)

CEO Interview: Wim De Waele, iMinds

Ultimately FTTH is about the end user experience, says Win De Waele, chief executive of iMinds. Research carried out in "Living Labs" shows that people's attitudes towards FTTH change when they experience what they can do with it. In this sense, promoting FTTH today is primarily about marketing, he says. To find out De Waele's views on "killer apps", eHealth opportunities and the lab's future research topics, read our interview.

[Read the interview with Wim De Waele \(PDF\) >](#)

Webinar Catch-Up: Passive FTTH Infrastructure

Our recent webinar, hosted by the Deployment & Operations Committee on 16 September, provided a broad and neutral overview of the passive infrastructure of an FTTH network from different perspectives, from design to installation. Drawing on information from the FTTH Handbook, typical architectures and topologies were reviewed as well as standard components and cable deployment methods. The webinar is an excellent introduction to FTTH infrastructure. You can download the presentation and a copy of the FTTH Handbook from our website.

[Download the webinar presentation \(PDF\)](#) >

[Download the FTTH Handbook 2014 \(PDF\)](#) >

FTTH Smart Guide 2014 now in German

There are many definitions of a smart city, and a large number of ideas - realistic and unrealistic - on how to exploit "smartness". A few years ago the Business Committee decided that they could help to clear up the confusion with a new guide, the FTTH Smart Guide. Now in its second edition, the publication has recently been translated into German, and is available to download free of charge.

[Download the FTTH Smart Guide in German \(PDF\)](#) >

[Download the FTTH Smart Guide in English \(PDF\)](#) >

Newsbeat

[UK Labour Party wants 1 Gbit/s for all UK households](#)

[Welcome your new digital commissioners](#)

[Digitale Agenda: Wenig Zukunftssicherheit im Breitbandausbau](#) (in German)

[Municipal Mania: Lessons from Europe](#)

[ESB and Vodafone reveal €450m broadband deal for 50 Irish towns](#)

[The Maddening Schizophrenia of US Incumbents](#)

[Fiber Sizzles in Spain as Orange Targets Jazztel](#)

[Vodafone and Orange quietly shelve six million FTTH target in Spain](#)

Upcoming events

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

29 - 30 September: [PLNOG13](#) in Krakow, Poland

1 October: [Finnet-päivät](#) in Helsinki, Finland

7 October: [FTTH Investors Day](#) in Vienna, Austria

7 October: [Let's Giga-fy Romania - Broadband Conference](#) in Bucharest, Romania

20 - 21 October: [VDE Kongress - Smart Cities](#) in Frankfurt am Main, Germany

23 October: [iMinds - The Conference](#) in Brussels, Belgium

28 - 29 October: [FTTH Conference 2014 Africa](#) in Johannesburg, South Africa

29 October: [Connected Future Conference](#) in Eindhoven, The Netherlands

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

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

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

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 4,839 members in our LinkedIn Group, 2,360 followers on Twitter and 1,346 "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.

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