

Press release

2020 Winners of the FTTH Council Europe Awards and Charles Kao Award announced!

- *Telefónica Spain and Jordi Nieuwenhuis, Executive Director and Co-founder, Deutsche Glasfaser, winners of the FTTH Council Europe Awards*
- *Maria Jesús Almazor Marsal, COO of Telefónica Spain winner of the Charles Kao Award*

3 December 2020. Today Eric Festraets, President of the FTTH Council Europe presented **Telefónica Spain** and **Jordi Nieuwenhuis, Executive Director and Co-founder of Deutsche Glasfaser** with an FTTH Award and **Maria Jesús Almazor Marsal, COO of Telefónica Spain** with a Charles Kao Award for their outstanding contributions to the acceleration of FTTH in Europe.

Telefónica Spain, represented by Enrique Blanco, Global CTIO Telefónica received the **FTTH Council Europe Operator Award** for the company's clear direction in favour of FTTH in Europe. *"Spain has shown in the past few years a real fibre momentum which keeps on accelerating, and we wanted to recognise Telefonica's pivotal role as a great achiever of this FTTH deployment. Its strong commitment to the fight against climate change was also a key factor in the decision"* indicated Eric Festraets.

Receiving the award on behalf of Telefónica Spain, **Enrique Blanco** said: *"It is an honour for me to receive this award on behalf of Telefónica, especially being for Telefonica Spain, my home country. This has been a long journey, with first deployments starting in 2008, turning into massive rollouts since 2012. The experience of Telefónica Spain has made possible the industrialization process of FTTH deployment in all our footprint, transferring knowledge and joining in a continuous improvement process. All this has multiplied the deployment capacity in our OBs under a total quality-oriented process. It has also allowed us to reduce the premises passed cost per unit above market average, and to cut down incidents and installation times. Telefónica Spain established a clear strategy and an excellent execution. This was possible by boosting technology leadership, by enhancing industry development and thanks to design principles consistent with rollout scenarios. And all this being perfectly coordinated, bearing commercial and technical criteria, in order to improve deployment efficiencies. But it's not only about an excellent connectivity, it is also about providing and outstanding wireless experience at home through our own CPEs, offering Wi-Fi control to our customer using our AI tools."*

Jordi Nieuwenhuis, winner of the 2020 FTTH Council Individual award is not a newcomer to the fibre industry. *"You have been instrumental in driving FTTH deployments both in the Netherlands and in Germany. You faced different environments, different economic conditions and with different business models. The success of Reggefiber and Deutsche Glasfaser are the proof of your dedication and commitment and this is what we wanted to recognise today"* said Eric Festraets.

Accepting the award, **Jordi Nieuwenhuis** said: *"I feel honored and grateful for this award. I want to thank all the great teams at Reggefiber back then and at Deutsche Glasfaser today. I am proud that we have managed to grow so strongly within a few years and that we have brought competition and rapid expansion to FTTH in Germany. Private companies have the expertise and the ability to deploy FTTH faster than anyone else"*.

Finally, Eric Festraets presented **Maria Jesús Almazor Marsal, COO of Telefónica Spain** with a Charles Kao Award. The Charles Kao Award was created in 2019 by the FTTH Council Europe in honour of fibre pioneer Professor Charles Kao who passed away in 2018. Sir Charles Kuen Kao was awarded in 2009 the [Nobel Prize in Physics](#) for *ground-breaking achievements concerning the transmission of light in fibres for optical communication*.

"Ms Almazor, you have been with Telefónica for more than 25 years. You assumed numerous positions both in the technical and commercial areas of the company, and in 2018, you were appointed COO of Telefónica Spain. From the infancy of FTTH, you were always convinced of the impact of this technology on society and the economy and this is this long-term commitment and strong vision that we wanted to recognise today." said Eric Festraets.

Receiving the award, **Maria Jesús Almazor Marsal** replied: *"I've been firmly convinced that it is key for a country to have a high capacity fibre network. But during these last months, this has become even more obvious."*

For more information about the FTTH Council Europe and Charles Kao Awards, please click [here](#)

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About the FTTH Council Europe

The FTTH Council Europe's vision is that fibre connectivity will transform and enhance the way we live, do business and interact, connecting everyone and everything, everywhere.

Fibre is the future-proof, climate-friendly infrastructure which enables an unparalleled fixed and wireless experience as well as new innovative digital technologies and services, empowering a leading Digital Society in Europe. This is a crucial prerequisite for safeguarding Europe's global competitiveness while playing a leading global role in sustainability

The FTTH Council Europe consists of more than 160 member companies. www.ftthcouncil.eu