



Press release

FTTH FOR 5G: adding spare capacity to FTTH deployments today significantly reduces 5G rollout costs tomorrow

- *New study analyses impact of Fibre/5G demand uncertainty in a phased rollout at time of initial build*
- *It demonstrates relation between percentage of spare capacity in the original FTTH deployment and future cost of 5G fibre rollout.*
- *Cost of FTT5G¹ when built on top of an FTTH network with limited or no spare capacity is 2 to 3.5 times more expensive than with sufficient spare capacity*

3 December 2020. Today the FTTH Council revealed the results of its [second study](#) aimed at quantifying the potential cost savings which could be made by building converged 5G-fibre networks. It demonstrates that deploying FTTH today with sufficient spare capacity will result in significant savings tomorrow for the roll out of 5G networks.

“Last year’s study clearly highlighted the benefits of convergence between FTTH and 5G networks in a greenfield² scenario.” says **Eric Festraets, President of the FTTH Council Europe**. “Today, we go one step further and show that **for a limited extra cost, building FTTH networks with sufficient spare capacity will considerably reduce the future costs of 5G deployments. This is a way to manage Fibre/5G demand uncertainty in a phased rollout and maximise the benefits of network convergence.**”

The FTTH/5G convergence [study](#) released by the FTTH Council Europe in 2019 had revealed that an optimally converged network for FTTH and 5G could eliminate between 65% and 96% of the cost of a standalone fibre network for 5G.

The follow-up study released today at the FTTH Virtual Conference 2020 has been conducted by Comsof and the Deployment and Operations Committee of the FTTH Council Europe. It considers the situation of phased rollout, starting with FTTH and finalised 5 years later with the connection of all 5G antennas to the fibre network.

Commenting on the results of the study, **Vincent Garnier, Director General of the FTTH Council Europe said:** “Adding the necessary spare capacity to your FTTH network at the initial build is a very limited extra cost (less than 1%). Not doing so, means that future fibre networks for 5G could cost 2 to 3,5 times more than if the original FTTH network had enough spare capacity. These finding are of critical importance for all operators, as we expect a surge in Fibre and 5G investments across Europe in the coming years.”

The FTTH Council Europe will soon organise a public webinar to provide more information on the methodology of the cost-modelling exercise and to detail the results of the study more in depth.

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¹ FTTH-5G: equivalent to Fibre to a 5G antenna/base station

² Greenfield scenario: where fibre is not yet deployed

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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