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Amsterdam Establishes Blueprint for Municipal FTTH Rollout

FTTH Council Europe Applauds City's Technically and Structurally Impressive Plans

According to the FTTH Council Europe, the recently unveiled plan for a 40,000 connection FTTH deployment in Amsterdam fulfils exemplary approaches to using smart-digging techniques, structuring municipal investment, and architecting open access passive infrastructure.

“The project’s successful initiation is the result of numerous local stakeholders coming together to achieve an important goal,” commented Hartwig Tauber, President of the FTTH Council Europe. “They each understand that this fibre infrastructure investment is as important to the city as its roads, power utilities and water systems, and will serve its broadband requirements far into the future.”

Notably, the plan also facilitates an open access network approach for maximum flexibility of subscriber offerings says Deputy-Mayor, Mark van der Horst. “The fibre network delivers to Amsterdam an innovative and freely accessible infrastructure, suitable to support growth in demand for the next 30 years or more. In this way we ensure a wide open marketplace for innovative service-providers and economic growth, as well as a fast track for the smarter and cheaper delivery of care, education and other public services.”

Panel debates and case studies around municipal FTTH infrastructure deployments will form an important part of the forthcoming FTTH Council Europe annual conference in Vienna on 25th and 26th January 2006. Keynote speakers presenting at the event include European Commissioner Viviane Reding, and representatives of telecom operators and technology vendors from around the world.

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About the Fibre to the Home (FTTH) Council Europe

The FTTH Council Europe www.europeftthcouncil.com is a market development organisation with a mission to accelerate the availability of fibre-based, broadband access networks to consumers and businesses. With few exceptions, Europe lags well behind the US and Asian tiger economies in the availability of high speed broadband services (10 Mbps and upwards). The Council believes that the development of fibre-based access networks is fundamental to the deployment of such services, and hence to reaping their benefits for European citizens and businesses.

The Council's charter is to work with European governments, policy-makers and opinion leaders qualify and quantify the benefits to be gained from fibre-based broadband access networks, and to identify and help to erode the barriers to their development. Council members are drawn from the telecoms (vendors), broadband content and academic sectors.

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