

26 June 2006

FTTH Council Hails Amsterdam CityNet Verdict

Europe's Largest Next Generation Broadband Body welcomes a legal precedent with positive implications for The Netherlands and Europe

The FTTH (Fibre-to-the-Home) Council Europe today hailed the decision by a Dutch court to approve the City of Amsterdam's investment in a next generation broadband infrastructure as a landmark for municipal FTTH networks in the Netherlands and Europe.

The Council had earlier voiced its concerns that the court case, brought by cable operator UPC on anti-trust grounds, could derail the development of next generation broadband services to Dutch citizens at a time when the world's leading broadband economies are benefiting from an explosion in the number of ultra high-speed Internet connections.

As well as clearing the way for the build-out of fibre connections to an initial 40 000 homes in Amsterdam – Phase 1 of the CityNet project – the decision also provides a clear precedent in European case law. This may benefit other municipalities considering similar investments.

“This is a very positive development for the Netherlands, and a helpful ruling in general for FTTH across Europe,” commented Hartwig Tauber, President of the FTTH Council Europe.

-ends-

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.

For more information contact:

Andy Williams / David Evans

Cohesive Communications

+44 (0) 1291 626200

ftth@cohesive.uk.com