

**25<sup>th</sup> January 2006**

## **Landmark FTTH Event Opens Today**

*FTTH Council Europe Annual Conference Comes Under the Spotlight as Fibre Gains Strong Momentum Among Global Broadband Players*

Europe's biggest trade event dedicated to future fibre-to-the-home technologies and deployments is launched in Vienna today, promising to be by far the most successful and captivating in its history. The FTTH Council Europe is anticipating a record number of delegates at its annual conference and exhibition with fibre-based broadband at perhaps its most crucial crossroads for many years. The choice of venue reflects the city's continued progress in fibre deployments and coincides with Austria's Presidency of the European Union during the first half of 2006.

Under the title 'It's clear...It's fibre...It's now!' the conference will hear keynote presentations and case studies from senior representatives of the European Commission, European regulators, Deutsche Telekom, Telekom Austria, NTT, City of Vienna, Glasvezernet Amsterdam, the World Bank, Walt Disney, Sony Entertainment, Microsoft, leading industry analyst firms and many others. Specific themes will include market forecasting for FTTH, applications for fibre-based content, the economics of fibre network building, business cases for FTTH project funding, approaches to reducing fibre building disruption, and fibre's role in realising triple-play services.

"FTTH (fibre-to-the-home) and other fibre-based deployments across Europe are growing significantly, with operators benefiting from innovative approaches to infrastructure building, management and financing," said Hartwig Tauber, President of the FTTH Council Europe. "Other regions of the world (e.g. the US & nations throughout Asia) are still far ahead of us in terms of their adoption of ultra-fast next generation broadband services, but we hope 2006 will be a crucial year in seeing this gap narrow."

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**About the Fibre to the Home (FTTH) Council Europe**

The FTTH Council Europe [www.europeftthcouncil.com](http://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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