

**PRESS RELEASE**

**7<sup>th</sup> February 2006**

**Europe's FTTH Event Opens Today**

*Most Successful FTTH Council Europe Annual Conference To Date; Over 1,200 Delegates Registered*

Europe's only conference dedicated to the future of fibre-to-the-home technologies and deployments opens its doors in Barcelona today, casting a spotlight upon the business drivers, business plans, technology choices and trends happening in the FTTH market today. The FTTH Council Europe is anticipating a record number of over 1,200 delegates at its 4<sup>th</sup> annual conference and exhibition this week, a fact signifying the growing importance of FTTH and other fibre-based broadband approaches.

Hartwig Tauber, President of the FTTH Council Europe comments: "This year's conference is the biggest and most exciting yet. Europe has been lagging behind the rest of the world in its steps toward embracing an information economy, but we hope 2007 will see the continuation of significant progress throughout the region and more clarity for our regulatory framework. This event is a crucial step in highlighting the business and technological issues decisive to the future of advanced broadband services in Europe."

The conference will hear keynote presentations and case studies from the world's leading fibre operators and deployers, high-profile experts, commentators and influencers. Points of discussion 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.

In addition to the two days of seminars, speakers and sessions, over 40 exhibitors will provide a showcase of the latest fibre technologies and solutions in the adjoining exhibition hall.

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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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