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FTTH HANDBOOK OFFERS A SIMPLE TUTORIAL FOR ADVANCED FIBRE DEPLOYMENT

***FTTH Council Europe Offers Impartial Assistance To The Growing Number
of Municipalities and Utilities Investigating FTTH Strategies***

The FTTH Council Europe is today publishing a step-by-step guide that demystifies the technical complexity of fibre deployment, to help FTTH operators understand the infrastructure options relevant for their specific FTTH deployments. The 60-page handbook entitled "FTTH Network Infrastructure Deployment Options" is designed to meet the increasing demand from municipalities and utilities for straightforward and impartial information about how FTTH projects can overcome differing environmental and topographical circumstances as quickly and as cost-effectively as possible.

"Incumbent operators have an innate grasp of different fibre techniques, but there is less awareness among the kinds of new alternative fibre players that represent a significant proportion of European deployments," said Hartwig Tauber, President of the FTTH Council Europe. "The handbook helps these organisations and their decision-makers cut through unnecessary technical detail to see how and why FTTH is achievable for them."

The handbook has been produced by the FTTH Council Europe Infrastructure Committee; itself composed of experienced technical experts from the leading international FTTx vendors. It addresses the broadest range of topics and issues inherent in an FTTH deployment including – but not restricted to - new cable re-use and fibre flotation techniques, rodent/termite protection measures and network topology planning guidelines.

Designed explicitly to appeal to non-technical readers, the handbook is being launched at the FTTH Council Europe annual conference in Barcelona this week and will be made available free of charge to delegates. The handbook will be updated periodically to reflect the ongoing evolution of fibre deployment techniques and approaches. "We will have a new version for the Berlin 2008 conference with more emphasis in particular on fibre-to-the-MTU (Multi-Tenanted Unit or MDU Multi Dwelling Unit)," added Tauber.

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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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