

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **FTTH COUNCIL EUROPE HIRES FIRST DIRECTOR-GENERAL**

#### **Former President Hartwig Tauber Appointed as Full-Time Executive**

**4<sup>th</sup> July 2007** - The FTTH Council Europe has made the critical appointment of its first ever 'Director-General'. Prof. Mag. Hartwig Tauber, an Austrian university academic and former President of the Council was selected by the Board from a shortlist of candidates and will take up his new full-time position immediately. The swift appointment of a highly qualified and experienced Director-General is part of the FTTH Council Europe's strategy to instil a new organisational structure capable of managing its continued growth and success.

"The goal of mass market fibre penetration in Europe is closer than ever, and these are great times to be involved in meeting the challenge," said Hartwig Tauber, Director General of the FTTH Council Europe. "Joining the Council again in this new role, I can dedicate the extra resources of time and concentration to support the activities that the Board and the membership decree."

The role of Director General has been defined to oversee the daily management and administration of FTTH Council Europe activities. The Director General also has responsibilities for promoting the aims and messages of the Council externally, and for executing its long-term strategy.

"Hartwig possesses each of the skills required of a Director General, and we are all extremely pleased to welcome him into this exciting new role," said Joeri Van Bogaert, President of the FTTH Council Europe. "I remember at the end of his last official presentation, he echoed the words of his movie star

countryman saying: 'I'll be back!' Now we are a stronger organisation for being able to call upon his enormous drive and talents once again."

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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 (100 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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