

22nd February

**FRANCE DEMONSTRATES FIBRE-TO-THE-HOME LEADERSHIP AT  
LANDMARK TELECOMS EVENT**

*FTTH COUNCIL EUROPE ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN PARIS FEATURES EXTENSIVE  
INSIGHT INTO RAPIDLY MATURING FRENCH MARKET*

The FTTH Council Europe today announces further details of its annual conference to take place at the Palais des Congrès in Paris on the 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> February 2008.

Anticipated to attract a record 1,500 delegates from the world of fibre technology, deployment, finance, analysis, regulation and business development, the conference will play particular attention to France's outstanding progress in the FTTH arena, with a strong focus on the country's market environment.

“With four different providers currently deploying FTTH access networks, (Orange, Iliad-Free, Neuf Cegetel and the cable operator Numéricable) the French market is clearly driving toward mass-market fibre deployment, and we at the Council are pleased to announce a dedicated French session exploring the drivers and strategic decisions of the market,” explains Joeri Van Bogaert, president of the FTTH Council Europe.

On the morning of the 27<sup>th</sup> February, Christine Lagarde, French Minister for Economy, Finance and Employment will provide the opening speech to the conference, whilst speakers in the French Perspective session will include Yves Parfait, FTTH Project Manager in France at Orange, Maxime Lombardini, Director General of Group Iliad-Free, Michel Paulin, General Manager at Neuf Cegetel and Arnaud Polaillon, General Secretary at Numéricable Noos.

The conference session will also see keynote speeches from Thierry Solère, VP of the Conseil Général of the 'Department' of the Hauts-de-Seine, providing an insight into the Très-Haut-Débit Access project and Paul Champsaur, Chairman of ARCEP.

Van Bogaert concludes, “Paris promises to be our most successful conference ever. France’s achievement and continuous development is indicative of the strides European FTTH is taking. There are many lessons we can learn as we stand on the cusp of taking European fibre to the next level.”

- Further Details -

The French Perspective session will take place from 10:45 – 12:45 on the 27<sup>th</sup> February. Registrations are now open, and more details concerning the event can be found online at <http://paris.europeftthcouncil.com>.

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

The FTTH Council Europe [www.ftthcouncil.eu](http://www.ftthcouncil.eu) 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.

Field Code Changed

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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