

**PRESS RELEASE**

**FIBRE TO THE HOME CONTINUES ITS GLOBAL MARCH**

***Number of Countries with Significant FTTH Market Penetration Now at 20 as More European Countries Come on Line***

***Asian Economies Have Biggest Market Share while US Continues Strong Growth***

**FTTH Council Europe Annual Conference, Copenhagen, 12<sup>th</sup> February 2009** – The number of economies where fibre to the home has established a significant and growing market presence has nearly doubled over the past 18 months, according to an updated global ranking issued today by the FTTH Councils of Asia-Pacific, Europe and North America.

The ranking, issued twice a year since 2007, was released today at the FTTH Council Europe's annual conference in Copenhagen, Denmark. It tracks the level of FTTH market penetration in economies where more than one percent of households are connected directly into high speed fibre networks. In all, 20 economies met this threshold, up from 14 in July 2008 and 11 in July 2007.

The growth is largely due to the entry of several European countries in the ranking, as fibre to the home deployment begins to expand across that continent and the total number of FTTH subscribers in Europe approaches two million.

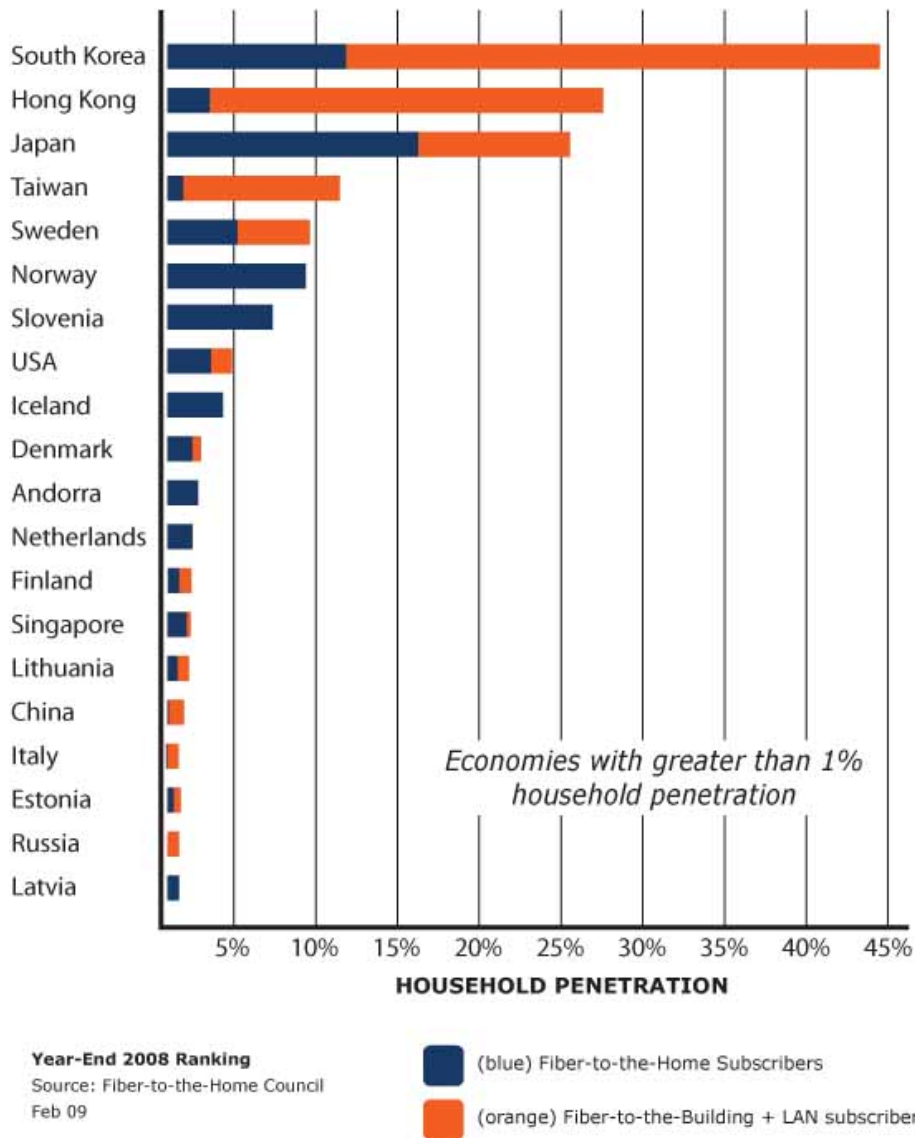
Asian economies maintained their leadership in FTTH market penetration, as South Korea (44% of the market), Hong Kong (28%), Japan (27%) and Taiwan (12%) continued to hold the top four places respectively.

Meanwhile, Japan remains the overall leader in terms of the number of fibre-connected homes at 13.2 million, followed by the United States (6.05 million) and the People's Republic of China (5.96 million).

For the first time, the Councils' ranking includes the breakdown for each economy between fibre to the home connections, where fibre is run all the way to individual residences, and fibre to the building (FTTB) connections for which the fibre terminates at a multi-unit dwelling and a non-fibre local area network (LAN) delivers service to the individual subscribers. In addition, FTTB subscriber numbers have been added to the totals for the United States, which accounts for much of the substantial increase in that country's totals since the previous ranking in July 2008. Copper-based broadband access technologies (DSL, FTT-Curb, FTT-Node) are not included.

The breakdown between FTTH and FTTB for each economy is depicted in the following chart:

## Economies with the Highest Penetration of Fiber-to-the-Home / Building+LAN



*Editors please note: A high resolution image of the above graphic is located on the web by [clicking here](#).*

“It is very encouraging to see four new EU nations joining Russia and Andorra in the new ranking, together nearly doubling Europe’s total representation among the top twenty in the world,” commented Joeri Van Bogaert, President of the FTTH Council Europe. “It is perhaps more difficult for the largest countries to achieve the ranking, which makes Russia’s inclusion particularly exciting and surprising. Across Europe, we are seeing FTTH penetration figures rise as the benefits of fibre become clearer for all.”

"Fibre to the home continues to grow rapidly in the United States, thanks to Verizon's aggressive deployment of its all-fibre network and the growing interest in FTTH among smaller telephone companies who see it as essential to their survival in the digital economy," said Joe Savage, President of the FTTH Council North America. "Subscriber satisfaction and high FTTH market share are driving this growth."

"We are pleased that Asia Pacific region continues to occupy the top slots in the rankings on market penetration, thanks largely to the very high level of market penetration in South Korea, Hong Kong, Japan and Taiwan," said Shoichi Hanatani, President of the FTTH Council Asia Pacific. "While no newly additional economies from the region were able to break into the ranking this time, we are seeing a lot of interest in a number of Asian economies and believe it won't be long before others begin significant FTTH deployments."

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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. The Council promotes this technology because it will deliver a flow of new services that make a decisive difference in the lives of consumers and companies and create value for the wider society. The FTTH Council Europe consists of more than 90 members companies. Its members include leading telecommunications companies and many world leaders in the telecommunication industry.

### **About the FTTH Council North America**

Now in its eighth year, the Fibre-to-the-Home (FTTH) Council North America is a non-profit association consisting of companies and organizations that deliver video, Internet and/or voice services over high-bandwidth, next-generation, direct fibre optic connections - as well as those involved in planning and building FTTH networks. The Council works to create a cohesive group to share knowledge and build industry consensus on key issues surrounding fibre to the home. Its mission is to educate the public and government officials about FTTH solutions and to promote and accelerate deployment of fibre to the home and the resulting quality of life enhancements such networks make possible. More information about the Council can be found at [www.ftthcouncil.org](http://www.ftthcouncil.org).

## **About the FTTH Council Asia-Pacific**

The FTTH Council Asia-Pacific [www.ftthcouncilap.org](http://www.ftthcouncilap.org) is a non-profit organization whose mission is to educate, promote and accelerate FTTH and the resulting economic and quality-of-life enhancements across the Asia-Pacific region. Formally registered in February 2005, and with over 50 member organisations spread across the Asia-Pac region; this Council maintains close links with sister organisations in Europe and North America. The Council is a group of leading telecom, networking, and infrastructure companies whose mandate is to promote the extension of fibre access across the Asia Pacific region including Greater China, Korea, Japan, SE Asia, India, Thailand and Australia.

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