

PRESS RELEASE

Fibre-to-the-Home Expansion Defies the Economic Downturn

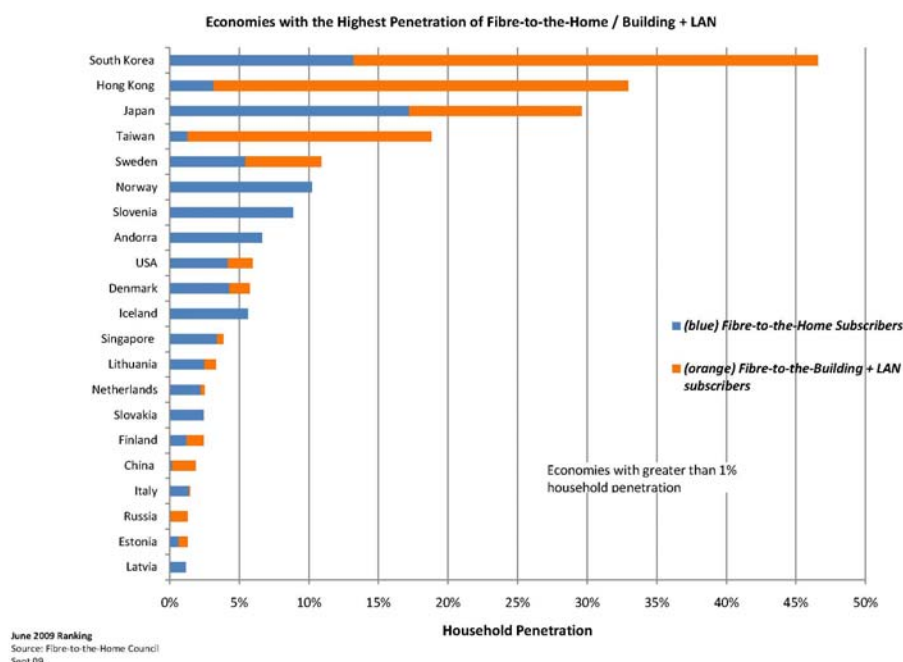
Fibre-to-the-home deployment continues unabated, with more than 5.5 million new FTTH/B subscribers added worldwide in the first six months of 2009.

HOUSTON – 29 September 2009 – The mission to accelerate the deployment of superfast fibre connections is making steady progress despite the global economic downturn.

The number of FTTH/B subscribers grew by 15% in the first six months of 2009, with more than 5.5 million new subscribers added worldwide, according to the latest update to the global ranking of FTTH/B economies, jointly issued by the three FTTH Councils of Asia-Pacific, Europe and North America.

Compiled every six months by the three FTTH Councils, and presented today at the FTTH Council North America's annual conference and exhibition in Houston, Texas, the global ranking includes all economies where more than 1 percent of households have a FTTH/B connection.

At the end of June 2009, 21 economies met this threshold. Indeed, all of the top 10 ranked economies in the global ranking have more than 5 percent of their households connected with FTTH/B.



The Asia-Pacific region still leads the global ranking with South Korea, Hong Kong, Japan and Taiwan taking the first four places, followed by the Nordic countries of Sweden and Norway.

The top three global economies in terms of the total number of new subscribers are China, Japan and the United States. With nearly 800,000 FTTH/B subscribers added in the first six months of this year, the US was able to maintain its position among the top 10 FTTH/B economies worldwide.

"In North America, fibre to the home continues to grow rapidly, driven by high satisfaction among those who have it, as well as the obvious competitive bandwidth and connectivity advantages," said Joe Savage, President of the FTTH Council North America. "Here in the world's second largest FTTH market, we are seeing fiber to the home really changing the way people live, learn and work - with a growing number of subscribers using their services to work from home and to access innovative applications for remote education and tele-medicine."

"We are happy to see a steady growth of FTTH/B in Europe even in times of the economic downturn", said Karel Helsen, President of the FTTH Council Europe. "With Slovakia as the only new entrant in the Global Ranking we have now 14 European countries in this important benchmark of FTTH/B development. Nevertheless, big countries like France, UK and Germany are still missing and two million subscribers in Europe is still a small number compared to 6 million in North America and more than 30 million in Asia-Pacific. We will therefore continue our efforts to communicate the advantages of FTTH/B to accelerate the deployment of fibre-networks in Europe."

The president of the FTTH Council APAC, Yoon Kun Loke comments: "It is good to see that APAC countries continue to lead in FTTH deployments. Governments and Service Providers realize the need to change from traditional to knowledge based economies that will bring about both economic and social benefits."

The next update of the FTTH global ranking, reflecting the status of fibre-connected households at the end of 2009, will be presented at the FTTH Council Europe's annual conference in Lisbon, Portugal, on February 24-25, 2010.

Editor's note: The FTTH global rankings include both fibre-to-the-home (FTTH), where the fibre connection reaches direct to the household, and fibre-to-the-building (FTTB), where fibre terminates inside the boundary of a multi-tenant building.

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About The FTTH Council Europe:

The FTTH Council Europe is an industry organisation with a mission to accelerate the availability of fibre-based, ultra-high-speed access networks to consumers and businesses. The Council promotes this technology because it will deliver a flow of new services that enhances the quality of life, contributes to a better environment and increased competitiveness. The FTTH Council Europe consists of more than 115 member companies. Its members include leading telecommunications companies and many world leaders in the telecommunications industry.

www.ftthcouncil.eu

About the FTTH Council Asia-Pacific:

The FTTH Council Asia-Pacific is a non-profit organization established in 2005. The organization is building on the success of its sister organizations in the US and Europe to educate the industry and the general public on the opportunities and benefits of FTTH solutions. FTTH Council Asia-Pacific members represent all areas of broadband industries, including telecommunications, computing, networking, system integration, engineering and content-provider companies, as well as traditional telecommunications service providers, utilities and municipalities.

About the FTTH Council North America:

Now in its eighth year, the Fiber-to-the-Home Council is a non-profit organization established to help its members plan, market, implement and manage FTTH solutions. Council membership includes municipalities, utilities, developers, and traditional and non-traditional service providers, creating a cohesive group to share knowledge and build industry consensus on key issues surrounding fiber to the home. Communities and organizations interested in exploring FTTH options may find information on the FTTH Council web site at www.ftthcouncil.org.

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