

FTTH Council Europe Appoints New President of the Board

Chris Holden is the new figurehead of the FTTH Council Europe, as it pursues its mission to accelerate the adoption of Fibre-to-the-Home in Europe.

BRUSSELS, 22 April 2010 – Chris Holden has been appointed as the next President of the Board at the Fibre to the Home Council Europe, becoming the fifth person to hold this position since the Council was founded in 2004. Chris Holden replaces outgoing President Karel Helsen.

Chris Holden continues in his current role as Strategic Marketing Manager Carrier EMEA with Corning Ltd after a long career in various managerial positions in the telecommunications industry. Since joining the FTTH Council Europe in 2005, Chris has been an extremely active member of several Committees. In April 2008 he was elected as Chairman of the Development & Operations Committee, and in April 2009 as Board member of the FTTH Council Europe.

In his farewell message Helsen said: “The FTTH Council Europe can be proud of its achievements to date, with the yearly Conference as its flagship event. This Conference is now the biggest FTTH Conference worldwide and stands in the spotlight of the international media. I strongly believe that fibre access will boost a whole suite of new services and applications. The strategy of the FTTH Council Europe 2015 reflects this development and I am sure that the Council will be very successful in attracting new members from these industries.”

“Karel has done a tremendous job of bringing FTTH to the attention of a much wider audience,” said Holden. “I am honoured to take up this position, and will continue to expand the work and scope of the Council. The FTTH ecosystem is vast, and everyone needs to get involved if fibre access networks are to reach all parts of Europe, even the most sparsely populated areas.”

The elections took place today at the General Assembly of the FTTH Council Europe in Amsterdam, where the members also elected a new Board of Directors, and agreed the work plan for the coming year. Key elements of the plan include creating awareness of the need for FTTH in Europe; positioning the Council as an accepted body on regulatory topics in Europe; and intensifying global cooperation with other FTTH Councils.

“The Council has made good progress over the past year,” said Hartwig Tauber, Director General of the FTTH Council Europe. “Our members are feeling positive about the future, particularly after the FTTH Conference in Lisbon last February, which attracted a record number of delegates. High-speed broadband has become a topic of national significance in recent years, and the Council’s message – that FTTH is a future-proof solution for delivering broadband – is more important and relevant than ever”.

The new Board of Directors consists of the following 9 members:

- Chris Holden, Corning – **President of the Board**
- Sophie Pautonnier, Mitsubishi Electric -**Treasurer**
- Eric Festraets, Alcatel-Lucent
- Pastora Valero, Cisco
- Albert Grooten, Draka Communications
- Peleg Erlich, ECI Telecom
- Martin Hatas, Ericsson
- Paul Schwartz, PacketFront
- Richard Thomas, Prysmian

The new Committee Chairs are:

- Pierre Pigaglio, P&T Consulting - Chairman of Deployment and Operations Committee
- Jan Schindler, Draka Communications – Chairman of Market Intelligence Committee
- Karin Ahl, Rala – Chairwoman of Business Committee

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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 can deliver a flow of new services that enhance the quality of life, contribute to a better environment and increase economic competitiveness. The FTTH Council Europe consists of more than 130 member companies.

www.ftthcouncil.eu

Media Contact:

Nadia Babaali

Communications Director

FTTH Council Europe

+33 (0) 6 20 88 72 38

nadia.babaali@ftthcouncil.eu