

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Romania joins the FTTH Global Ranking

*Operators in Romania are deploying fibre in the cities to meet the demand for business connectivity, better TV services and high-speed broadband.*

BRUSSELS, 27 October 2010 – The FTTH Council Europe is pleased to welcome Romania to the FTTH Rankings, a league table of nations where more than 1% of households subscribe to broadband over a fibre connection direct to their property.

Romania joins the Ranking in 13<sup>th</sup> position out of the 17 European countries that are eligible. With an overall penetration rate of 1.58%, Romania now counts around 120,000 subscribers with the majority being on FTTB connections.

The majority of FTTH/B connections have been installed by micro-ISPs known locally as "rețea de bloc/rețea de cartier" (block/neighbourhood networks). The largest fibre player, cable company RCS&RDS, has been gradually replacing the last-mile coaxial connections with Ethernet LAN architecture.

One plan that should further enhance Romania's position in the FTTH Rankings is already underway in Bucharest, where the city authorities have decided to develop an open access fibre network as part of a public-private partnership. The motivation is to reorganise and consolidate the city's telecoms infrastructure, and move the cabling from overhead to underground installations.

"The FTTH Rankings are a highly respected measure of a country's prowess in broadband, and entry to the Rankings is a significant achievement," declared Chris Holden, President of the FTTH Council Europe. "The Council encourages Romania to maintain its momentum in deploying new fibre networks, with the regulator and government working to foster the conditions for growth by all players in this important market."

The FTTH Council Europe's unique Ranking is part of its Market Panorama study, commissioned from research firm IDATE. The figures for the first half of 2010 show that New Member States nations are leading the FTTH Ranking, occupying three out of the top five positions. If Russia is also included, today the majority of FTTH connections are to be found in Eastern Europe.

The complete Global Ranking for 2010, which also incorporates data from the FTTH Councils of Asia-Pacific and North America, will be announced at the next FTTH Conference, to be held in Milan, Italy, on 9–10 February 2011. Visit <http://ftthconference.eu> for more information.

Note: The FTTH Global Ranking is based on the definition of FTTH/B agreed by the three FTTH Councils. It includes fibre to the home (FTTH), where the fibre connection reaches the household, and fibre to the building (FTTB), where fibre terminates inside the boundary of a multi-tenant building. The Ranking covers all countries with more than 200,000 households where FTTH/B penetration exceeds 1% of the total number of homes.

-ends-

**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 enhance the quality of life, contribute to a better environment and increase economic competitiveness. The FTTH Council Europe consists of more than 145 member companies. [www.ftthcouncil.eu](http://www.ftthcouncil.eu)

Media Contact:

Nadia Babaali

Communications Director

FTTH Council Europe

+33 (0) 6 20 88 72 38

[nadia.babaali@ftthcouncil.eu](mailto:nadia.babaali@ftthcouncil.eu)