

## Two for one: build future proof fibre and get 5G for “free”

New study released at the FTTH Conference highlights:

- The extra investment to make a full fibre network 5G ready is in the range of 0.4% to 7.2%;
- The range of cost savings for a fibre-5G network due to convergence can reach between 65% and 96%.

**Amsterdam, 13 March 2019** – Today the FTTH Council Europe revealed [the results of its new study](#) aimed at quantifying the potential cost savings, which could be made by building converged 5G-fibre networks. In other words, can some savings be made if an operator anticipates and builds a FTT-5G network while planning and rolling-out a FTTH network?

*“5G has become a buzz word and the idea of this study stems from a general observation: there will be no 5G without fibre.” says Ronan Kelly, President of the FTTH Council Europe. “Small cell densification will be mandatory for 5G to fully deliver its potential. This process will rely on more fibre densification as it requires fibre to reach every cell site, hence a huge opportunity for convergence. **This is the first time that a study puts numbers on the value of this convergence and it highlights a massive potential**”*

The study conducted by Comsof for the FTTH Council Europe focused on underground fiber network deployments and considers 3 types of areas: Very dense (urban, city centre), medium dense (suburban, residential) and low dense (village) combined with 3 different types of cell densities.

**After analysing a variety of scenarios, the FTTH Council was able to reach the conclusion that if a FTT-5G<sup>1</sup> network is anticipated while planning for a FTTH network, the range of cost savings for the FTT-5G network due to convergence can reach between 65% and 96%. Consequently, the extra investment on top of a FTTH network to make it 5G ready is in a range of 0.4% to 7.2%.**

The scope of this study covers a greenfield<sup>2</sup> underground scenario and this is where cost saving opportunities are the highest, however it is also achievable to leverage on a fibre network when it is already deployed. Considering that also important savings can be made in rural areas, even countries which are leading on fibre deployment still offer high saving opportunities.

Commenting on the results of the study, **Erzsébet Fitori, Director General of the FTTH Council Europe said:** *“Planning ahead a 5G ready FTTH network allows for considerable synergies and hence a more efficient use of investments as well as less civil works and disturbance. **This also means that with a smart and future-proof FTTH deployment, the cost of fibre related to a 5G deployment can be virtually almost eliminated. These results are of critical importance for any fibre investor trying to think ahead and monetize on 5G with a little extra fibre investment.**”*

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<sup>1</sup> FTTH-5G: equivalent to Fibre to a 5G antenna/base station

<sup>2</sup> Greenfield scenario = where fibre is not yet deployed

The FTTH Council Europe will soon organise a public webinar to provide more information on the methodology of the cost-modelling exercise and on the scenarios employed. A report documenting all the assumptions made in this study and providing additional information will also be published in the next semester.

The first results of the study “5G and FTTH: the value of convergence” by Comsof for the FTTH Council Europe are available for [download here](#)

In addition to this study, **the Deployment & Operations Committee of the FTTH Council Europe has published a White Paper on Fixed-Mobile Network Convergence - The Key Role of Fibre.**

This White Paper is complementary to the above-mentioned study and provides more details about the technologies and network architectures contained in the study. [It can be downloaded here](#)

### **About the FTTH Council Europe**

The FTTH Council Europe is an industry organisation with a mission to accelerate ubiquitous full fibre-based connectivity empowering a leading Digital Society throughout Europe. The FTTH Council Europe’s vision is that fibre connectivity will transform and enhance the way we live, do business and interact, connecting everyone and everything, everywhere.

The FTTH Council Europe consists of more than 150 member companies. [www.ftthcouncil.eu](http://www.ftthcouncil.eu)

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