

**PRESS RELEASE:**

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## **FTTH Council Europe's First Ever Study Proves Positive Impact on Sustainable Development through FTTH Networks**

The FTTH Council Europe today announced the results of a unique research exercise evaluating the sustainability and environmental impact of fibre networks. Conducted in collaboration with Price Waterhouse Coopers (PwC) and the Council's Sustainable Development and FTTH Committee (SUDEFIB), the research is the first of its kind and shows that the net environmental impact of FTTH will be positive in less than 15 years.

Joeri Van Bogaert, President of the FTTH Council Europe comments, "The results clearly demonstrate the overall service and environmental benefits of FTTH. The findings stand as testament that fibre is a sustainable and future-proof technology for the 21<sup>st</sup> century."

The research compared the environmental impact of a typical FTTH network to its associated benefits and will provide the foundation for further research on the subject by the Council. Maximising the opportunity for new services whilst minimising the materials and maintenance required, FTTH contributes to reduced road travel, less transport infrastructure, and the introduction of innovative social and government services. Meanwhile, the total impact of network implementation in the study takes into account the full lifecycle of a typical fibre infrastructure from production of passive equipment, transport, implementation of all active equipment and power consumption to end of life.

Christian Ollivry, Chair of the SUDEFIB Committee comments, "Beyond this 15 year timescale, which is quite conservative, the research shows that FTTH provides only positives for Europe. The results are based on calculations from tele-working and tele-assistance applications only, although FTTH solutions offer extensive social and

economical benefits over and above these, with the capability to change societies for the better because of the access to new services it brings.”

Using the projection of FTTH users according to IDATE (20 million for 2015) the research found that for the first 15 years of network implementation, greenhouse gas emission savings per user were found to be 330 kg, the equivalent to a car travelling 2,000 kilometers. Moving forward, the sustainability of FTTH solutions will be increased significantly as user experience grows and other fields not assessed in this study such as supply-chain management and energy demand are considered.

Over the full network lifecycle, the use of the network (power consumption) represents only 6% of the total environmental impact, whilst the production and deployment of the equipment totals over 80%. However, with continuing innovations taking place in the industry these processes are becoming cheaper, quicker and less disruptive, henceforth reducing the environmental impact and further increasing the sustainability of fibre networks over time.

Further research into the subject of sustainable development is planned for the near future. This could also include the adoption of similar sustainable development methodologies for a defined network project and by the FTTH Council's of APAC and North America.

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#### **About the Fibre to the Home (FTTH) Council Europe**

The FTTH Council Europe [www.europeftthcouncil.com](http://www.europeftthcouncil.com) is a market development organisation with a mission to accelerate the availability of fibre-based, broadband access networks to consumers and businesses. With few exceptions, Europe lags well behind the US and Asian tiger economies in the availability of high-speed broadband services (100 Mbps and upwards). The Council believes that the development of fibre-based access networks is fundamental to the deployment of such services, and hence to reaping their benefits for European citizens and businesses.

The Council's charter is to work with European governments, policy-makers and opinion leaders qualify and quantify the benefits to be gained from fibre-based broadband access networks, and to identify and help to erode the barriers to their development. Council members are drawn from the telecoms (vendors), broadband content and academic sectors.

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