

Press Release for immediate publication

Study on FTTH Evolution in MENA Region to be Launched at Kuwait Conference

Kuwait Road Show Tour, FTTH Demos & Workshops to be held as part of FTTH Council MENA 8th Annual Conference from 7-9 November 2016

Dubai, UAE, 2 November 2016 - Under the patronage of Communications and Information Technology Regulatory Authority (CITRA) of Kuwait and the support of the Ministry of Communications, the 8th Edition of FTTH Council MENA Conference taking place from 7th-9th November 2016 at The Regency, Kuwait will host a Kuwait Road Show Tour, FTTH Demos & Workshops, besides a two day Conference programme as announced by the Fibre to the Home (FTTH) Council MENA under the theme "*FTTH, The Evolution to the Digital Society*".

The conference will be inaugurated by HE Salim Al-Ozainah, Chairman and CEO of CITRA, and the opening ceremony will be followed by a special panel which will cover the key drivers and progress study in developing National Broadband Strategies and will include high-level leaders from ITU, CITRA, Oman Broadband, Qnbn, Ventura Team and Salience consultancy. The conference will highlight the importance of the verticals' role in the FTTH business and the best regulatory models in the deployment process, showing the latest studies prepared by the council.

The annual MENA panorama study for FTTH/B conducted by FTTH Council MENA and partner Idate revealed that the MENA region has improved its fibre uptake during the last 12 months, with almost 45% of homes subscribed to fibre technology in Q3 2016. MENA FTTH subscribers have grown to 38.1%, in comparison to the 20% reported last year. The growth rate of subscribed homes in the region indicates that countries like Bahrain, Morocco, Saudi Arabia and Tunisia have increased by more than 15%.

Kuwait targets to increase its fibre subscribers by 35% and ensure a growth in homes passed of 11.7% during 2016. The study also shows a growth in Qatar with 295.000 fibre subscribers and 375.000 homes passed by September 2016, while the UAE has reached over 1.5 million FTTH/B subscribers and 1.7 million homes passed with a ratio of 88.8% (subs/Homes Passed). The full details of the study will be presented in a special session in the conference covering the MENA region and the global FTTH Council's regions.

“Kuwait is using telecommunications to position itself within the GCC and globally through CITRA’s objectives. We are ambitious and working tirelessly to exceed regional ICT benchmarks. We intend to achieve the same level of service in the fixed network through the continued development of the FTTH network initiative started by the Ministry of Communication”, said H.E. Salim Al-Ozainah, Chairman and CEO of CITRA.

Eng. Hameed H. Al-Qattan, Undersecretary, Ministry of Communications, Kuwait noted in a similar statement that Kuwait is very keen to benefit from FTTH and has begun the implementation of this national project on three stages. The development of telecommunications networks is an important pillar in supporting the smart city services as well as those in e-health, e-government, e-education and others.

The two day conference will explore the future of fibre, the role of FTTH and FTTx in transforming countries to smart cities, the global experience of FTTH services with special focus on delivering Gigabit services, new opportunities for FTTH deployment in the MENA region and innovative FTTH solutions for operators, networks & customers. The Kuwait Roadshow on the 9th of November will be a guided tour which will explore the fibre infrastructure of Kuwait with the support of the Ministry of Communications.

The pre-conference day on 7th November 2016 will include many activities and workshops, such as the FTTH network Planning and Design, which will guide attendees on proper infrastructure deployment.

Registrations for the conference can be made online at <http://ftthcouncilmena.org/ftth-conference/registration/online-registration>

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About the FTTH Council MENA

The FTTH Council Middle East and North Africa is an industry organization with a mission to accelerate FTTH adoption by all broadband stakeholders through information and promotion, in order to accelerate the availability of fibre-based, ultra-high-speed access networks to consumers and businesses. We promote FTTH because it delivers a flow of new services that enhances the quality of life, contributes to a better environment and boosts competitiveness. For more information on the event, please visit the website at <http://ftthcouncilmena.org>

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