



PRESS RELEASE

CONFERENCE PUTS FIBRE-TO-THE-HOME AT THE HEART OF THE MIDDLE EAST'S FUTURE

First ever FTTH Conference in the Middle East highlights the fact that fibre networks can make a vital contribution to sustainable economic development.

AMMAN, JORDAN – 10 November 2009 – The inaugural Fibre-to-the-Home Middle East Conference opened today in Amman, Jordan, in presence of the Jordanian Minister of ICT, His Excellency Eng. Basem Al Rousan, patron of the conference, who made the opening speech.

Dr. Mashour Abu Daka, Minister of Telecommunications and IT in Palestine, Karel Helsen, President of the FTTH Council Europe and Faris Awartani, Chair of the Councils' Middle East Group also addressed conference delegates with strong messages of hope for continued but sustainable economic growth in the Middle East with FTTH.

“This unique event is taking place in response to a growing interest in optical fibre access infrastructure in the region, which reflects the increasing importance of high-speed digital communications to modern society,” said Mr Awartani.

The two-day conference provides an unparalleled opportunity for anyone with an interest in fibre-to-the-home to learn more about the benefits of fibre, share information about the market, and learn from the experience of operators who have already rolled out fibre networks in the region.

Governments and local authorities will be interested in the benefits that fibre networks can bring in terms of economic productivity, environmental sustainability and a better quality of life. Equipment vendors and network operators can provide insight into the business case and the market for their products and services.

Other case studies were provided by Eng. Jehad Ali, Director Engineering and Operation, VTel-Holding-Jordan, and Nga Lai Alice Wong, Financial Controller, Hong Kong Broadband Network Ltd.

The FTTH Middle East conference is taking place today and tomorrow at Jordan's premier conference venue, the Zara Expo. For further information please see: www.conference.ftthcouncilme.org.

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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 will deliver a flow of new services that enhances the quality of life, contributes to a better environment and increased competitiveness. The Council consists of more than 120 member companies.

www.ftthcouncil.eu

The FTTH Council Europe Middle East Group is an ad-hoc working group of the FTTH Council Europe. The Group is a working party of new Gulf-based and European Council members.

www.ftthcouncilme.org

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