



PRESS RELEASE

## **JORDANIAN ICT MINISTER TO WELCOME FIBRE-TO-THE HOME CONFERENCE TO THE MIDDLE EAST**

*FTTH Council Europe launches Middle East conference.*

BRUSSELS – 3 October 2009 – The FTTH Council Europe is delighted to announce that His Excellency Eng. Basem Rousan, the Jordanian Minister for ICT, will deliver the opening speech at the inaugural Fibre-To-The-Home Middle East Conference, which will take place on the 10-11 November 2009 at the Zara Expo in Amman, Jordan.

The prestigious two-day event will be hosted by the Kingdom of Jordan and supported by leading communications providers and equipment vendors active in the Middle East fibre-to-the-home market.

HE Eng Basem Rousan, Minister of ICT, emphasised the importance of broadband connectivity as a key enabler of Jordan's transformation into a full-fledged knowledge economy. To that end, Rousan highlighted the main components of the National Rural Areas Connectivity programme that was last announced by the Minister: "we will leverage our National Broadband Network that is aimed at connecting schools, government agencies, hospitals and health centres via high speed fibre optics", he said. "Those connected schools will be used as access points to provide last mile internet connectivity for villages". The Minister explained the Cloud Computing model that will be used including the online access device and modem to be developed locally, Data Centre, as well as, specially aggregated localized and Arabic content. "this programme will be developed in partnership with the private sector (especially Microsoft) and Academia" said the Minister.

"This is the first conference of its kind to take place in the Middle East," said Faris Awartani, Chair of the FTTH Council Europe's Middle East Group. "It will provide a unique forum for communications providers, installers and authorities to discuss the challenges and opportunities specific to the Middle East region."

The conference programme is packed with operator case studies, business case analysis, and debate on technical best-practice, alongside a dedicated exhibition showcasing the latest fibre and access network products.

Opening speaker HE Rousan is head of the government department that decides information, computing and telecommunications policy in the Kingdom of Jordan, including the National Broadband Network and e-government programmes. With a distinguished career spanning telecoms engineering, executive roles and strategic public policy work, HE

Rousan will be able offer a authoritative view on the evolution of communication networks in the Middle East.

To register for the conference, view the speaker programme, or find out about the work of the FTTH Council Europe Middle East Group, visit [www.conference.ftthcouncilme.org](http://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 FTTH Council Europe consists of more than 115 members companies. Its members include leading telecommunications companies and many world leaders in the telecommunication industry.

[www.ftthcouncil.eu](http://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](http://www.ftthcouncilme.org)

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