Connected Cities: Globalisation of Very High Capacity Networks

Abstracts

The aim of this study is to obtain a detailed snapshot of superfast connectivity with a download rate superior or equal to 100 Mbps in big cities around the world and to draw out the top 10 selection. This comparison between cities is based on qualitative criteria such as quality of service, affordability compared to local standard of living and on quantitative criteria such as coverage or market competition.

Asia's major metropolises top the ranks thanks to their very high capacity (VHC) networks, many of which are FTTH. Newcomers to the ranks, notably the Middle East, score very high on certain criteria. Cities in the United States have climbed several spots thanks to telcos' rollouts in response to cable's longstanding stronghold on the broadband access market, and more recent rollouts from newcomers such as Google. Europe is also in good shape, thanks to the Digital Agenda for Europe (DAE) and a desire to build VHC networks in densely populated areas, where infrastructure-based competition is strong. The only cities absent from the top of the ranks are in Latin American, where progress is clearly being made, but still not enough to close the gap with other countries.

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