

The Gigabit Race - Fixed Ultra-Fast Broadband Networks: Technologies, Stakeholders and Usage

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Abstracts

The Gigabit race is now a reality, especially in the United States where private sector players and local authorities are all getting involved in furthering the deployment of new generation infrastructure. Elsewhere in the world, Gigabit access is already in place, notably in Asia, or, in places such as Europe, poised to become a new target product for the marketplace.

This report explores regional approaches to Gigabit-speed access, and describes how the different types of players are positioned. Private and public sector stakeholders may not have adopted the same strategies, but all have a vital role to play in this search for increased network performance.

The report begins by providing some background on so-called Gigabit technologies. Although FTTH is the only one currently able to deliver a 1 Gbps connection, copper and coaxial cable systems could well undergo technological upgrades in the very near future that will allow them to rival optical fibre.

Lastly, the report takes a look at the services and usage side of things, and confirms that ultra-fast broadband is a natural progression from superfast broadband: with no specific application that today requires a 1 Gbps connection, the need for increased bandwidth is being spurred chiefly by a rise in the number of users with a simultaneous connection... although future innovations could change all that.

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