

## **SG6 Workshop on Fibre and cable infrastructure technologies for the NGN and FTTH deployment**

A workshop "**Fibre and cable infrastructure technologies for the NGN and FTTH deployment**" was held on 14 April 2008, in conjunction with the sixth meeting of SG6 in Wuhan, China, by kind invitation of YOFC (Yangtze Optical Fibre Company).

The aim of this workshop was to review the state of the art of the worldwide deployment of fibre in the access network, present new products and emerging installation techniques and discuss the pro and cons of the different FTTX solutions. The workshop was attended by about 60 delegates from different Countries.

The workshop consisted in invited presentations and was organized in 4 sessions:

Session 1 - Planning and Design of Access network, including Countries experiences

Session 2 - Standardization of new fibres/cables and PON network measurements and maintenance

Session 3 - Improved installation techniques

Session 4 - Round Table Discussion

All the presentations can be found at:

<http://www.itu.int/ITU-T/studygroups/com06/ngn-ftth/programme.html>.

The following points emerged from the presentations and the discussion:

1. Only the large scale deployment of optical fibre technologies allows to satisfy the emerging bandwidth need.
  2. Although FTTH will represent the long term solution, the Telecom Operators are considering the fibre deployment in the access network in different ways, sometimes planning a transition from FTTCab or FTTB steps, in dependence on the situation of the existing copper asset.
  3. One of the most important challenge is the fibre cabling of multi dwelling units (MDU) in the brownfield scenario: this situation appears to be more critical in the European countries where, most of all in historical cities, the permission for cabling is granted only without disrupting the existing infrastructures and the aerial cabling is not allowed.
  4. New generation of fibres and cables are under development, focussing on the mechanical and environmental performances needed for the MDU cabling.
  5. Another key point for the success of the optical fibre deployment in the access network will be the availability of cost effective methods of Outside Plant construction. New installation techniques using minitrenching and radar inspection were presented.
  6. Last but not least, in consideration of the amount of investment needed for the FTTH deployment, regulatory issues have to be solved, regarding the ownership of the optical fibre infrastructure, as well as the rules for infrastructure sharing between different Telecom Operators.
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