

FTTH Council Europe announces Innovation Award winners 2011

CEO of Portugal Telecom receives the prestigious FTTH Innovation Award in front of more than 3000 delegates at the record-breaking FTTH Conference in Milan

FTTH CONFERENCE, MILAN, 10 February 2011 – The annual FTTH Council Europe conference in Milan wrapped up today with the highly anticipated presentation of the FTTH Innovation Awards. Selected by an independent panel of experts from the academic world, the Innovation Awards are given to recognise creative companies and organisations in the fibre-to-the-home industry. This year the Awards were made in two categories: deployment and operations; and technical and technology.

The award in the deployment and operation category goes to Portugal Telecom for its “I5” strategy, which is an integral part of its FTTH implementation plan. The five pillars of innovation (I5) in the context of a FTTH transformation are: network deployment and operations, service delivery, service convergence, business transformation and an eco-system of partnerships. A holistic approach has clearly paid off: Portugal Telecom has captured approximately 30% of the pay TV market in Portugal since services launched in April 2008.

Portugal Telecom CEO, Zeinal Bava, declared: “Portugal Telecom has always positioned itself at the forefront of the development and rollout of leading-edge technologies. For us, the investment in fibre was not a question of “if”, but of “when”, as we believe it is the only future-proof technology to provide ultra-broadband services to our enterprise and residential customers. PT’s aggressive FTTH rollout is a core part of our cloud offer and Pay-TV strategy, underpinning the transformation of our business model. This award recognises teamwork at PT of the highest calibre and the success of a strategy focused on innovation, operational execution and partnership with industry leaders to deliver best-in-class services to our customers.”

The winner in the technical category is Nokia Siemens Networks for its ultra-dense WDM-PON system utilizing coherent detection technology. This experimental system has been designed to deliver sustained symmetric data rates at 1.2 Gbps per subscriber, long reach up to 100 km, and high channel count of up to 1000 channels per fibre. Such a system is capable of supporting residential, enterprise, as well as mobile backhaul customers within the same optical distribution network.

The Innovation Award ceremony brings to a close the most successful FTTH Conference to date. The event, which was opened by Dr Letizia Moratti, Mayor of Milan, attracted a record of more than 3000 delegates, nearly 100 top-tier exhibitors from all over the world and included more than 80 high-quality presentations and case studies from renowned industry speakers.

Highlights of the event included the keynote speech from Professor Carlota Perez, an international expert of the socio-economic effects of technological change, and a closing plenary session from Neelie Kroes, vice-president of the European Commission responsible for the Digital Agenda. Both speakers were absolutely passionate about the opportunities that FTTH can create for Europe, both for business and in a social context.

The location of the 9th annual FTTH Council Europe Conference was also revealed today. It will take place on 29 Feb-1 March 2012 in Munich, Germany.

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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 enhance the quality of life, contribute to a better environment and increase economic competitiveness. The FTTH Council Europe consists of more than 150 member companies. www.ftthcouncil.eu.

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