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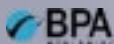
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# Here Is The Shape Of Things To Come

## Fiber Applications: A Major New Thrust



Here's an exciting update received minutes ago from our editor-in-chief Steve Ross as he dashes to get ready for his trip back home across the Atlantic:

"FTTH Europe was a wow -- lots of interesting technology, especially with MDU and urban deployments." Much of what Ross will be expanding upon in future issues from the FTTH Europe conference in Vienna also underscores the importance of our editorial this month — for example, the articles in our special section on Economic Development that deal with leveraging the building of sewer infrastructure to install fiber optic capacity. Ross writes: "Vienna, Paris, Amsterdam (are getting) fiber in sewers. They're laying armored fiber directly inside sewer lines, all over Europe." He adds: "The only big deployment has been in Vienna so far, and they are just beginning to tie the fiber in the main sewers with fiber to the building basements." That ought to make you read our two articles on pages 45 ("Solving the Urban Fiber Bottleneck") and 52 ("Federal Funds for Broadband — And for Sewer Rehab, Too") with special interest. Another high point from FTTH Europe in Ross's email: In-home bendable fiber. "NTT scored a tech breakthrough — fiber that is easily as tough as Cat5 wiring, so it can be strung around the home by users, directly. Makes in-home ONTs even more attractive to US telcos, I think. People got up and cheered." Also, from my email, I can predict we will be having some in-depth edit on the Vienna system deployment. For the moment we'll have to make do with the words of our editor: "Fascinating deployment, technically and financially."

From the Australian front Ross notes: "Telstra all IP network, being kicked off as we speak. It lit last Wednesday." And spanning the globe: "Bell Canada, France Telecom and others: GPON investments; test in Paris. The momentum seems to be toward GPON when passive network is desired. Europe often does active, but the big GPON tests are startling. Many US folks wanting to deploy will want to rethink."

A few other hot items from our European editorial bulletin: "Disney wowed the audience, but said it would not produce fancy content without at least a million homes having broadband fiber." Stay tuned for major in-depth edit on this topic and its many ramifications and implications. Also the following: "Sony is pushing to be the center of household network management. People were dazzled by the technology," though Ross goes on to cite a number of caveats. Note to readers: You'll be reading a major piece on "Sony's vision for a fiber future," which will describe how most of your storage will be in remote servers. "Very network-centric, and well thought out," observes our editor. That is just a quick glimpse ahead on the editorial front as we prepare for our blockbuster annual Global Report in March and for a new emphasis on applications in these pages.

As next-generation infrastructure like fiber-to-the-premises becomes a reality, the development of new applications to ride the new networks will be forthcoming. Already those applications are rolling out -- new forms of entertainment video, telemedicine, remote education, homeland security, home security, geographic information systems, Internet gaming, customer service operations, government operations. And the list of possibilities is endless.

To keep you informed of the latest in bandwidth applications, we are launching in upcoming issues expanded coverage of what we are calling, "Fiber Applications." Whether you are a telco or cableco representative, a developer, municipal official, homeowner or just a technology junkie, you will not want to miss our fascinating insights into the newest broadband applications coming your way.

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