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## From NYC to Dubai Fiber is the Future

The Summit was the perfect venue to get the big picture on broadband.

"Building a hub in a cow pasture is actually cheaper than doing it downtown," said network builder Tim Nulty in his Summit keynote disputing the "nonsense" that it is uneconomical to deploy fiber-to-the-home in a rural area. Nulty's address forms part of the big picture of FTTH — with rural and MDU deployments picking up despite the economy. You can read his remarks starting on page 48, within some 50 pages we devote to the Summit. (From our Web site, [bbpmag.com](http://bbpmag.com), you can e-mail PDFs of the issue or pages from our digital edition.)

Our Summit coverage and all of this issue contain glimpses of the transformation being brought about by fiber. A report cited on page 24 predicts that by the year 2010 a mere 20 households will generate as much network traffic as the entire Internet did in 1995. Another study noted in the same article finds Internet traffic doubling every 12 to 15 months. And then there are the statistics about YouTube and Netflix that I always read twice as they seem so improbable to one inured to the glacial pace of incremental progress. (Absorbed in the details, I have to remind myself that the article in question, on the Exaflood, does not focus on the new opportunities we'll see proliferate but rather on impending disaster from ignoring the exponentially expanding deluge.)

In our First Mile section, where we keep our finger on the global pulse of broadband, we report that this year planet Earth will hit the one billion mark in terms of individual broadband users. "Fiber and WiMAX will increasingly displace traditional broadband access technologies," we note. All through First Mile the picture is one of surging growth, with new records and benchmarks being attained, and global household penetra-

tion rates moving up. It is all about markets that are expanding, broadband being adopted on a massive scale, and governments that are ever more broadband friendly. "Governments across the world have begun to view the Internet and access to it as a positive influence on their populace and the economy in general," we report. All good news, for sure.

Yet our regular feature, Why We Need More Fiber, on page 14, notes that some providers see skyrocketing growth in bandwidth use as a threat while others view it as an opportunity. It all depends on whether the provider has fiber-to-the-home. Dissuading customers from increasing their bandwidth use will just drive them into the embrace of a competitor, notes one analyst. It calls to mind the observation in our editor-in-chief's cutting-edge column on page 6: Putting off deploying fiber is a risk in itself. That's especially potent advice in light of the comment on page 52 by Tim Nulty, that fiber "is the most perfect monopoly ever invented by man."

The rollout of bandwidth is creating opportunities around the planet, as we see in our regular Fiber Deployment Roundup beginning on page 16. Reports range from news of fiber being run through the UK's 360,000 miles of sewers to the expansion of one of the world's largest FTTH networks — in Dubai.

As Nulty notes, whether citizens live beside a cow pasture or in the heart of Manhattan (in a city now slated to be an historic first with FTTH, as you can read in our Roundup) the fiber network will be "absolutely the most important, fundamental connection between citizens and the world around them for the next 100 years."

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Scott DeGarmo'.