

2023 FTTH Award Winners Announced, as Fibre Industry Leaders Gather at the FTTH Conference in Madrid

- Over 3.000 registered delegates gathered for Europe's leading fibre optic event for 2023
- The agenda of the show includes 26 expert workshops, 18 panel sessions and multiple keynote speeches, with over 150 expert speakers alternating on stage
- Leading fibre technology vendors to expose the latest FTTH solutions during the two-day exhibition featuring over 100 exhibitors & partners
- 2023 FTTH Awards winners announced:
 - Fiberhost is the winner of the newly introduced Champion of Diversity Award
 - Openreach is the winner of the FTTH Operator Award
 - Mrs. Gerda Meppelink , Senior Expert Politics and Administration at Deutsche Glasfaser, is the winner of the FTTH Individual Award
 - Heinz Pabisch, Director Section Group Gigabit Fiber Access at CMG-AE, is the winner of the Charles Kao Award

Madrid, 19 April 2023 – FTTH industry leaders from across the continent are gathered at the FTTH Conference 2023, happening on 18-20 April 2023 at IFEMA Feria de Madrid. Building on the success of last year's edition of the show in Vienna, Austria, the FTTH Conference 2023 is one of the most anticipated industry events bringing together policymakers, regulators, operators, investors, and technology experts.

"Nowadays, it is widely recognised that the future relies on FTTH. There is still much work to do, however, before everyone can enjoy the undisputed superiority of fibre connectivity: bringing the networks to those regions that are not yet covered and ensuring that fibre is actually chosen by end subscribers should be the top priorities for the industry in 2023", commented Eric Festraets, President of the FTTH Council Europe. "Our objective at the FTTH Council Europe is to help all stakeholders accomplish these goals and find actionable solutions to address the challenges ahead for them. I am confident that the FTTH Conference will be able to deliver on this".

Every year, the event aims at covering the most crucial challenges and opportunities ahead for the fibre industry, by bringing on stage the perspective of regulatory bodies, investment funds, and top operators across Europe.

This year's speakers line-up includes Roberto Viola - Director General of DG Connect at the European Commission, Matías González Martín - the newly-appointed Secretary General for Telecommunications at the Ministry for Economic Affairs and Digital Transformation of Spain, Tomas Lamanauskas - Deputy Secretary-General at the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), Ulrik Vestegergaard Knudsen – Deputy Secretary-General at OECD, and Yuriy Matsyk - Head of the MDT's Directorate of Fixed Broadband at Ukraine's Ministry of Digital Transformation.

“With this year’s edition of the event being held in Spain, a mature market in terms of FTTH deployment, we take the opportunity to reflect on the lessons we can learn from the successful fibre rollout seen in this country and, more generally, on the next steps our industry needs to undertake once the network deployment is nearly completed”, said Vincent Garnier, Director General of the FTTH Council Europe. “Stimulating the adoption of fibre and fibre-enabled services is definitely on top of this list, and we delve into this theme by reflecting on the most effective strategies to accelerate its take-up, both from a business and a regulatory perspective”.

The programme of the conference also covers the usual focuses on some key European markets like Germany and the UK, several deep dives into the latest developments in terms of technology (moving to 10G and beyond, the decommissioning of copper networks, future applications to run on fibre networks and the importance of in-home connectivity among these) as well as on the most recent policy and regulation initiatives that interest the fibre industry.

In addition to this, the programme also explores the sustainability issue and the need to rapidly adapt corporate strategies to the undergoing climate and energy crisis, by significantly reducing energy consumption and lowering our carbon footprint. Talent management and diversity also find relevant space within the conference agenda, by means of a dedicated panel session on how to attract and retain skilled labor in a time of shortage for the industry, and by the announcement of the new “Champion of Diversity Award”, introduced for the first time at the FTTH Conference 2023.

Four awards in total were presented by Eric Festraets – President of the FTTH Council Europe, during the plenary session of the FTTH Conference on 19 April, rewarding the outstanding contributions to the well-being of the industry and the acceleration of FTTH deployment in Europe:

- Fiberhost, Polish open access operator, is the winner of the newly introduced Champion of Diversity Award
- Openreach is the winner of the FTTH Operator Award
- Mrs. Gerda Meppelink, Senior Expert Politics and Administration at Deutsche Glasfaser, is the winner of the FTTH Individual Award
- Heinz Pabisch, Director Section Group Gigabit Fiber Access at CMG-AE, a technology organisation based in Austria, is the winner of the Charles Kao Award

Visit the FTTH Conference website for more information: www.ftthconference.eu

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About the FTTH Council Europe

The FTTH Council Europe is an industry organisation with a mission to advance ubiquitous full fibre-based connectivity to the whole of Europe.

Our vision is that fibre connectivity will transform and enhance the way we live, do business and interact, connecting everyone and everything, everywhere. Fibre is the future-proof, climate-friendly infrastructure which is a crucial prerequisite for safeguarding Europe's global competitiveness while playing a leading global role in sustainability.

The FTTH Council Europe consists of more than 160 member companies.

Learn more at www.ftthcouncil.eu