



HD **Machine Learning**; Studies from East China Normal University Further Understanding of **Machine Learning** (The analysis of financial market risk based on **machine learning** and particle swarm optimization algorithm)

WC 511 words

PD 15 April 2022

SN Investment Weekly News

SC INVWK

PG 2988

LA English

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LP

2022 APR 23 (VerticalNews) -- By a News Reporter-Staff News Editor at **Investment** Weekly News -- Investigators publish new report on **machine learning**. According to news reporting out of East China Normal University by VerticalNews editors, research stated, "The financial industry is a key to promoting the development of the national economy, and the risk it takes is also the largest hidden risk in the financial market. Therefore, the risk existing in the current financial market should be deeply explored under blockchain technology (BT) to ensure the functions of financial markets."

TD

Our news correspondents obtained a quote from the research from East China Normal University: "The risk of financial markets is analyzed using machine learning (ML) and random forest (RF). First, the clustering method is introduced, and an example is given to illustrate the RF classification model. The collected data sets are divided into test sets and training sets, the corresponding rules are formulated and generated, and the branches of the decision tree (DT) are constructed according to the optimization principle. Finally, the steps of constructing the branches of DT are repeated until they are not continued. The results show that the three major industries of the regional economy account for 3.5%, 51.8%, 3.2%, 3.4%, and 3.8% of the regional GDP, respectively, the secondary industry makes up 44.5%, 43%, 45.1%, 44.8%, and 43.6%, respectively, and the tertiary industry occupies 20%, 3.7%, 52.3%, 52.9%, 54%, and 54.6%, respectively. This shows that with the development of the industrial structure under BT, the economic subject gradually shifts from the primary industry to the tertiary industry; BT can improve the efficiency of the financial industry and reduce operating costs and dependence on media."

According to the news reporters, the research concluded: "Meanwhile, the financial features of BT can provide a good platform for business expansion. The application of BT to the supply chain gives a theoretical reference for promoting the synergy between companies."

For more information on this research see: The analysis of financial market risk based on machine learning and particle swarm optimization algorithm. EURASIP Journal on Wireless Communications and Networking, 2022,2022(1):1-17. (EURASIP Journal on Wireless Communications and Networking - <https://jwcn-urasipjournals.springeropen.com>). The publisher for EURASIP Journal on Wireless Communications and Networking is SpringerOpen.

A free version of this journal article is available at <https://doi.org/10.1186/s13638-022-02117-3>.

Our news editors report that more information may be obtained by contacting Tao Liu, School of Business Administration, Faculty of Economics and Management, East China Normal University. Additional authors for this research include Zhongyang Yu.

Keywords for this news article include: East China Normal University, Cyborgs, Economics, Algorithms, Machine Learning, Emerging Technologies, Finance and Investment, Investment and Finance, Particle Swarm Optimization.

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CO ecnu : East China Normal University | btcom : BT Group PLC

IN i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i79021 : Wired Telecommunications Services

NS gcsci : Computer Science | ciprof : Industry Profile | cmarkr : Market Research | ccat : Corporate/Industrial News | cdom : Domestic/Foreign Markets | gcat : Political/General News | gsci : Sciences/Humanities

RE china : China | apacz : Asia Pacific | asiaz : Asia | bric : BRICS Countries | chinaz : Greater China | devgcoz : Emerging Market Countries | dvpcoz : Developing Economies | easiaz : Eastern Asia

IPD Expanded Reporting

PUB NewsRX, LLC

AN Document INVWK00020220415ei4f0013b

HD Residents fume as damaged **cable** leaves 200 properties without reliable internet

BY Antonio Scancariello

WC 343 words

PD 15 April 2022

SN Bridgwater Mercury

SC NQTUC

LA English

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LP

RESIDENTS inBridgwaterhave been left fuming after a damaged **cable** has left them without reliable internet for the past two weeks.

The issue has affected houses on Taunton Road, Kendale Road, and Chilton Street and repairs may not be completed until April 19, according to engineers.

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An Openreach spokesperson said the problem is “affecting around 200 customers”.

One resident, Elaine Bridges-Goodenough, who lives on St Saviour’s Avenue, said that since March 29 she has not been able to use her broadband.

She said: “On March 19 they started digging on my street. I have been in contact with Sky every single day but they are saying it is an Openreach issue.

“There are so many people with this problem. I am paying for a service I don’t have.

“It has a huge impact. I am paying for Netflix and Amazon and limited television is all we got. It’s shocking how much it impacts your life.”

An Openreach spokesperson said “they don’t know the cause of the damage yet” and that “the repairs are complex,” adding that the issue should be fixed by April 19.

Mrs Bridges-Goodenough also added: “A few people were affected by the sound of it. They get intermittent internet, but mine is completely gone since March 29, it’s just ridiculous.”

The full statement from Openreach read: “We’re really sorry that this resident and others in this part of Bridgwater have been without their broadband. “A major cable which feeds the area has been damaged and our engineers are working on the repairs.

“We don’t know the cause of the damage yet, but it’s affecting around 200 customers. The repairs are complex but we hope to have them complete by 19 April or sooner if possible.

“We’re keeping broadband providers up-to-date on our progress and remind everyone affected that it’s essential to report any loss of service to their provider who will then contact us.”

CO btcom : BT Group PLC

IN i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i79021 : Wired Telecommunications Services

NS gcat : Political/General News

RE eland : England | uk : United Kingdom | eurz : Europe | weurz : Western Europe

PUB Newsquest Digital Media

AN Document NQTUC00020220415ei4f00001

HD

Synamedia's VIVID Compression encoding and streaming technology supports BT Sport's delivery of UK's first live 8K sports broadcast to the home

WC

564 words

PD

14 April 2022

ET

20:23

SN

PR Newswire

SC

PRN

LA

English

CY

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LP

At scale 8K deployments no longer a dream, now a reality

LONDON, April 14, 2022 /PRNewswire/ -- Synamedia, the world's largest independent video software provider, today announced that its VIVID Compression **platform**, powered by AMD EPYC(TM) 7763 processors, was one of a range of partners to support UK broadcaster BT Sport's 8K-UHD broadcast of the Saracens vs. Bristol Bears Gallagher Premiership Rugby on March 26, 2022. This accomplishment was the UK's first live 8K home broadcast of a top-tier sporting event delivered in 8K using a single CPU to encode the broadcast.

TD

"Within six months, we've delivered on our promise to distribute 8K content at scale and cost-effectively to help kickstart the 8K economy," said Elke Hungenaert, Vice President, Product Management, Synamedia. "Our highly efficient software-defined, AI-based compression algorithms, combined with the power of the AMD EPYC processor high core-counts, deliver on the market demand for immersive experiences to feel as if fans are 'in the game.' The global implications of this deployment with BT Sport will ignite live sports streaming in 8K for years to come; we're excited to be a part of it."

Along with the AMD EPYC processors, VIVID Compression delivers pin-sharp sports scenes by eliminating the need for multiple tiles and other technology tricks which compromise video quality. Its Artificial Intelligence (AI)-based algorithms remove the need for technology trade-offs by leveraging the full codec toolset, powered by AMD EPYC 7763 processors.

"Our technology partnership with Synamedia has already helped drive the industry forward, and we're proud to support companies like BT Sport on their mission to deliver high-quality viewing experiences," said James Knight, director, Global Media & Entertainment - VFX, AMD. "Our collaboration has already supported one industry-first, and we're excited for the many more to come."

This deployment has proven that there is no need to split the 8K signal into 4K quadrants, nor for dedicated CPUs or other hardware acceleration. With Synamedia's software capabilities and AMD EPYC processors, premium quality 8K video is available today at an affordable price point with less dependency on expensive hardware.

VIVID Compression will be at NAB 2022 in Synamedia's booth, W10113. Schedule a meeting here .

About Synamedia

We're trusted by over 200 video service providers to deliver, protect and monetize video content in an increasingly IP world. Synamedia's flexible incremental architecture provides a rapid, friction-free way to add, build and deploy cloud-based video services. Our award-winning portfolio also includes intelligence-led anti-piracy, advanced advertising, business analytics, broadband, and video network solutions and services. Synamedia's technology is in 320 million active devices and protects \$70 billion in revenue annually. Synamedia is backed by the Permira funds and Sky.

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Twitter: @SynamediaVideo

LinkedIn: Synamedia

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View original content to download multimedia:
<https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/synamedias-vivid-compression-encoding-and-streaming-technology-supports-bt-sports-delivery-of-uks-first-live-8k-sports-broadcast-to-the-home-301526177.html>

SOURCE Synamedia

(END)

CO

btcom : BT Group PLC

IN

i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i79021 : Wired Telecommunications Services

NS

npress : Press Releases | ncat : Content Types

RE

uk : United Kingdom | eurz : Europe | weurz : Western Europe

PUB

PR Newswire Association, Inc.

AN

Document PRN0000020220414ei4e000r0

SE Lifestyle,Money
HD **People claiming Universal Credit can get £15 broadband packages from BT and Virgin Media**
BY By Linda Howard
WC 664 words
PD 14 April 2022
ET 14:44
SN dailyrecord.co.uk
SC DRECRONL
LA English
CY © 2022 Reach Plc
LP

Households keen to cut costs could be missing out on these unique **fibre** broadband packages.

The cost of living crisis is prompting people to take a closer look at their finances to find possible ways to reduce their outgoings and with switching energy suppliers currently off the table, one of the most obvious ways is to look at your broadband package.

TD

Those on a low income or Universal Credit or other means-tested legacy benefits from the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) such as Pension Credit or Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) may be eligible for £15 monthly broadband packages available from BT.

The Virgin Media deal is only available to those on Universal Credit.

Benefit calculators quickly check if you are missing out on extra DWP support within minutes

More people in work now eligible for Universal Credit payments each month

The fibre broadband packages are designed to keep those on a low income connected. Below is everything you need to know about them.

BT Home Essentials is the new name for BT Basic, providing broadband and home phone services to customers on benefits.

Two broadband packages are available with speeds of 36Mb and 67Mb, while customers who just want a landline can sign up for home phone only with unlimited minutes.

The eligibility criteria for BT Home Essentials are tight and customers must be in receipt of certain benefits to qualify.

BT Home Essentials is open to new or existing BT customers who are receiving one of the following benefits:

The person in receipt of an eligible benefit must be the named account holder on their BT Home Essentials plan.

Top Money Stories Today

When a customer applies for BT Home Essentials, they will need to pass an eligibility check. This will include the type of personal information normally supplied when applying for broadband such as surnames and addresses.

However, applicants will also need to supply their date of birth and National Insurance number so their specific eligibility for Home Essentials can be checked.

An option of a security deposit is available for those with low credit scores.

Find out more on the BT Home Essentials here.

Latest Benefits News

Virgin Media Essential broadband helps you get online for £15 a month with a 15Mbps fibre broadband speed.

It's a broadband-only package available if you're already a Virgin Media customer and you receive Universal Credit.

To qualify for this pack, Virgin Media needs the account owner to show some proof that they receive Universal Credit before they can set them up.

To apply, just fill in an online application form and they will email you back with how to complete the eligibility checks.

As soon as they go through, they will swap you over and you won't have to pay any extra fees or charges for changing from your current Virgin Media services.

Virgin says it will keep you connected at £15 a month for as long as you're eligible. This means the price of your Essential broadband pack won't change while you're receiving Universal Credit payments.

The Essential broadband pack is a broadband-only service, so if you're currently taking TV and/or home phone with Virgin, these services will be cancelled.

Essential broadband is a 30-day rolling contract, which means whenever you're ready to go back to your usual Virgin Media services, just give them a call and they will sort it all out for you.

If you ever want to switch to Essential broadband again, you can just reapply the same way.

Find out more about Virgin Media Essential broadbandhere.

To keep up to date with the cost of living crisis, join our Money Saving Scotland Facebook grouphere, follow Record Money on Twitterhere, or subscribe to our twice weekly newsletter.

Calls for all broadband providers to scrap high exit fees to help customers during cost of living crisis

CO btcom : BT Group PLC | telwst : Virgin Media Inc. | lbmdit : Liberty Global PLC

IN i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i79021 : Wired Telecommunications Services | i97411 : Broadcasting | i9741109 : Cable Broadcasting | imed : Media/Entertainment

NS glife : Living/Lifestyle | gpersf : Personal Finance | gcat : Political/General News

RE scot : Scotland | eurz : Europe | uk : United Kingdom | weurz : Western Europe

PUB Reach Plc

AN Document DRECRONL20220414ei4e0030I

HD

Synamedia's VIVID Compression encoding and streaming technology helps bring the UK's first live 8K broadcast of a top-tier sporting event into the home

WC

559 words

PD

14 April 2022

ET

14:15

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<https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/synamedias-vivid-compression-encoding-and-streaming-technology-helps-bring-the-uks-first-live-8k-broadcast-of-a-top-tier-sporting-event-into-the-home-301525811.html>

SOURCE Synamedia

(END)

CO

btcom : BT Group PLC

IN

i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i79021 : Wired Telecommunications Services

NS

npress : Press Releases | ncat : Content Types

RE

uk : United Kingdom | eurz : Europe | weurz : Western Europe

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PR Newswire Association, Inc.

AN

Document PRN0000020220414ei4e000g7

SE Broadband
HD **Openreach Hits Quarter Mark, On Way To 25 Million Full Fibre Build**

BY Tom Jowitt

WC 740 words

PD 14 April 2022

SN Silicon.co.uk

SC SILCUK

LA English

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LP

More than seven million homes and premises in the United Kingdom can now enjoy full **fibre** broadband goodness, Openreach confirms

More than seven million homes and premises in the United Kingdom can now enjoy full **fibre** broadband goodness, Openreach confirms. Openreach has crossed a significant milestone in its full **fibre** build programme, by reaching more than a quarter on the way to 25 million homes by December 2026.

TD

It was back in May 2021, when Openreach announced [it would increase and expand its build out of Fibre to the Premise \(FTTP\)](#), despite being in the middle of Coronavirus lockdowns.

Prior to that in March 2021 the UK regulator [Ofcom had agreed the pricing and other conditions needed for BT](#) to commit £12 billion of its own money for the rollout of FTTP to 20 million homes or businesses by the mid- to late-2020s.

[Click to view image.](#)

Network commitments

BT then confirmed it will “[get on and build like fury](#)” to deliver fibre to the premise (FTTP) to 20 million premises.

Soon after that BT said it would increase its full fibre (FTTP) build by 5 million premises, with the new target of 25 million premises to be reached by December 2026.

Openreach also pledged later in May 2021 that it would deliver [full fibre broadband to another three million homes and businesses](#) in some of the hardest to reach parts of the UK.

The previous target for rural full fibre was 3.2 million homes by December 2026. Openreach said it planned to reach 6.2 million homes and premises in rural locations in the same timeframe.

Openreach seemed to have expanded its rollout plan as it gained valuable experience and equipment (such as its Cleanfast machine) in full fibre deployments, which speeded up the process.

[Click to view image.](#)

This, coupled with greater regulatory and economy certainty, has given BT the needed reassurance to commit £12 billion of its own money for the rollout of FTTP.

[Click to view image.](#)

The government of course has an [ambitious target of making 1Gbps capable broadband](#) available to at least [85 percent of country by 2025](#).

FTTP milestone

Fast forward a year and Openreach has confirmed that FTTP (fibre to the premise or full fibre) now reaches more than seven million homes, including more than two million in the hardest to reach ‘final third’ of the country.

And the carrier also added 36 more rural and urban locations added to its build plan – covering 500,000 more premises.

“Having already built the new technology to more than a quarter of its target footprint, Openreach is on track to reach 25 million premises by December 2026 and it’s passing more than 50k new homes and businesses every week,” said the carrier. “To put that in perspective - engineers are installing around 800 metres of cable every minute.” Openreach also signalled it [stop selling legacy analogue phone services](#) and will give notice on a further 46 exchanges covering more than 380,000 premises where it is building Full Fibre, to encourage the adoption of new digital services.

Openreach is giving Communication Providers (CPs) 12 months notification that it’ll no longer be selling copper-based products/services in these exchanges. This brings the total number of locations – now notified for ‘stop sell’ to c.600 exchanges - covering around five million premises.

“Over a whopping seven million homes can now connect to our Full Fibre network which is a fantastic achievement,” said Clive Selley, Openreach CEO. “We’ve come a long way – it took eight years for us to pass our first million premises, but only four months to pass our latest million.”

[Clive Selley BT Openreach cEO](#)

“We believe that full fibre is the future for the UK and that’s why we want to deliver full fibre broadband to 25 million UK homes and businesses by December 2026,” said Selley. “The shift from copper to fibre will be every bit as significant as the move from analogue to digital and black and white tv to colour. By eventually retiring analogue phone lines, we will be creating a simplified network which allows us to meet the enhanced needs of an increasingly digital society.” The full list of FTTP locations and timescales being updated regularly on the [Openreach website](#), or people can visit the [Openreach fibre checker](#).

[bt-openreach](#)

CO ofcom : Office of Communications | btcom : BT Group PLC

IN i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i431 : Fiber/Yarn/Thread | i43 : Textiles | ictl : Clothing/Textiles | icnp : Consumer Goods | i79021 : Wired Telecommunications Services

NS ccat : Corporate/Industrial News

RE uk : United Kingdom | eurz : Europe | weurz : Western Europe

IPD Broadband

PUB NetMediaEurope

AN Document SILCUK0020220414ei4e00002

HD Synamedia powers 8K live broadcast for BT Sport in UK

WC 94 words

PD 14 April 2022

SN Telecompaper Europe

SC TELEUR

LA English

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LP

Synamedia, global video software provider, and AMD have helped BT Sport successfully deliver the UK's first live 8K broadcast of a top-level sporting event into the home.

Synamedia's Vivid Compression **platform**, powered by AMD EPYC 7763 processors, distributed BT Sport's 8K-UHD broadcast of the Saracens-Bristol Bears rugby match on 26 March. This was the UK's first live 8K home broadcast of a top-level sporting event delivered in 8K using a single CPU to encode the broadcast.

CO btcom : BT Group PLC

IN i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i79021 : Wired Telecommunications Services

NS ccat : Corporate/Industrial News

RE uk : United Kingdom | eurz : Europe | weurz : Western Europe

PUB Telecompaper BV

AN Document TELEUR0020220414ei4e0005s

HD **Openreach says it has connected seven million homes to full fibre**

BY Steve McCaskill

WC 402 words

PD 14 April 2022

SN TechRadar

SC TECHR

LA English

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Openreach plans to connect 25 million premises by 2026.

Openreach has revealed it is now more than a quarter of the way to achieving its target of covering 25 million homes and businesses to full fibre infrastructure by 2026.

TD

The BT-owned company has now connected more than seven million premises to its next generation network and is passing 50,000 properties every single week, laying an estimated 800 metres worth of cable every minute.

The Openreach network is the largest in the UK and is used not just by parent company BT to deliver its services, but also by other broadband providers including Sky, TalkTalk, and Vodafone, and by mobile operators who require backhaul for their masts.

Openreach fibre

Openreach is one of several firms building full fibre infrastructure, including CityFibre and Virgin Media.

Thirty-six new locations that will be covered as part of the rollout have also been detailed, as have 46 further exchanges where Openreach will no longer sell copper-based services to its communications provider partners. This rings the total number of exchanges to 600.

Read more

> [Openreach connects six million homes and businesses to full fibre](#)

> [Openreach adds 98 more exchanges to digital migration plans](#)

> [Openreach to create thousands of new jobs in fibre rollout push](#)

"We've come a long way – it took eight years for us to pass our first million premises, but only four months to pass our latest million," said Clive Selley, Openreach chief executive. "We're the UK's leading network builder – going further and faster than all our competitors put together, and we're still getting faster and building further every week, every quarter.

"That's important because it signals to the markets that we're delivering what we promised. This is a life-changing technology and we're delighted to be adding more towns and villages to our build programme today.

"The shift from copper to fibre will be every bit as significant as the move from analogue to digital and black and white tv to colour. By eventually retiring analogue phone lines, we will be creating a simplified network which allows us to meet the enhanced needs of an increasingly digital society."

* Many broadband providers use Openreach's network to power their services so take a look [at the best fibre deals](#)

[Clive Selley \(Openreach\)](#)

CO ctyfhl : CityFibre Infrastructure Holdings PLC | btcom : BT Group PLC

IN i7902202 : Mobile Telecommunications | ioptoel : Optoelectronic Devices | i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i34531 : Semiconductors | i79022 : Wireless Telecommunications Services | iindele : Industrial Electronics | iindstrls : Industrial Goods | itech : Technology | i3302 : Computers/Consumer Electronics | i3303 : Networking | i3441 : Telecommunications Equipment | i79021 : Wired Telecommunications Services | ibrdbi : Broadband Equipment | ifbropt : Fiber Optic Equipment

NS ccat : Corporate/Industrial News

PUB Future Publishing Ltd.

AN Document TECHR00020220414ei4e000b5

HD Openreach adds 36 new locations to full-fibre network build

WC 116 words

PD 14 April 2022

SN Telecompaper Europe

SC TELEUR

LA English

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LP

Openreach has added 36 more rural and urban locations to its full-fibre network build plan, covering an additional 500,000 premises. Locations include Accrington in Lancashire, Boldon in Tyne & Wear, Dudley in the West Midlands, Hornchurch in Greater London, Kemptown in East Sussex, Manningham in West Yorkshire, and West Houghton in Greater Manchester.

Openreach has now built full-fibre to more than 7 million premises across the UK, including over 2 million in the hardest to reach 'final third' of the country. It is on track to reach 25 million premises by end-2026, and is passing more than 50,000 new premises per week.

CO btcom : BT Group PLC

IN i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i79021 : Wired Telecommunications Services

NS ccat : Corporate/Industrial News | cprdop : Facility Openings | c24 : Capacity/Facilities

RE uk : United Kingdom | eurz : Europe | weurz : Western Europe

PUB Telecompaper BV

AN Document TELEUR0020220414ei4e0002t

HD Warning to small companies in Southampton over business-grade **cyber** security

BY Sam Hatherley

WC 426 words

PD 12 April 2022

SN Daily Echo

SC NQTFD

LA English

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LP

THOUSANDS of small firms in the south east could be leaving themselves open to **cyber**-attack because they have little or no business-grade **cyber** security measures.

That is the message from BT, following new research it has commissioned.

TD

A survey of decision-makers at UK businesses found that thousands of small firms may be at risk because they are relying on security products that are not designed for business use.

With the majority of small firms moving online during the pandemic, opportunistic cyber criminals have also stepped up their efforts to target them.

READ MORE: Uber competitor to launch service in Southampton this week

BT's research reveals that 34 per cent of those in the south east do not have the right level of protection.

It also found 3 per cent of businesses are not using any cyber protection at all.

Chris Sims, a managing director at BT, said: "There has been a huge shift over the past two years in the number of small firms in South East (13 per cent) moving more of their business online. Whilst that's a really encouraging trend, being an online business can also bring its challenges, particularly around cyber security.

"Any digital business – large or small – can be a target for cyber criminals, and this is something we've seen during the pandemic. And whilst consumer-grade products are great for protecting you while surfing the web, accessing emails and other personal use, they're not designed for running a business which requires more robust protection and safeguards.

"It's clear that our smallest firms need more support in this area, so today we're launching new free cyber security tools for our BT business broadband customers, together with free online advice to help upskill small businesses on how to stay safe online."

A message from the Editor

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IN i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i79021 : Wired Telecommunications Services

NS csmibs : Small/Medium Businesses | ghack : Cybercrime/Hacking | ccat : Corporate/Industrial News | gcat : Political/General News | gcrim : Crime/Legal Action | ncat : Content Types | nfact : Factiva Filters | nfcpx : C&E Executive News Filter

RE uk : United Kingdom | eland : England | eurz : Europe | weurz : Western Europe

PUB Newsquest Digital Media

AN Document NQTDF00020220412ei4c00005

HD Science - Terahertz Science and Technology; Reports on Terahertz Science and Technology from National Taiwan University Provide New Insights [Low-loss Single-band, Dual-band, and Broadband Mm-wave and (Sub-)Thz Interconnects for Thz Sop Heterogeneous System Integration]

WC 542 words

PD 11 April 2022

SN Journal of Engineering

SC JOENG

PG 2899

LA English

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LP

2022 APR 11 (VerticalNews) -- By a News Reporter-Staff News Editor at Journal of Engineering -- Data detailed on Science - Terahertz Science and Technology have been presented. According to news reporting from Taipei, Taiwan, by VerticalNews journalists, research stated, "Low-loss single-band, dual-band, and broadband terahertz (THz) interconnects for THz system-on-package heterogeneous system integration are proposed in this article. Transmission lines deployed on a 0.18- μm Complementary Metal-Oxide-Semiconductor (CMOS) chip and an integrated-passive-devices carrier, respectively, are coupled electromagnetically as the chip is flip-chip packaged onto the carrier using low-cost gold stud bumps."

Financial support for this research came from Ministry of Science and Technology, Taiwan.

TD

The news correspondents obtained a quote from the research from National Taiwan University, "By doing this, two pairs of quarter-wave coupled lines can be formed to realize a low-loss THz interconnect for transiting a signal from the chip to the carrier. Moreover, single-band and dual-band operations can be acquired by designing the coupled lines to have a length of $\lambda/4$ and $\lambda/4$ and $3\lambda/4$ at the frequencies of interest, respectively. The gold stud bumps are also employed to realize a broadband directly-connected THz interconnect which transfers a signal from an on-chip microstrip line to an on-carrier microstrip line in a low-loss and broadband manner. A theoretical analysis using signal flow graphs and Mason's rule is conducted to provide design guidelines. Experimental results show that the proposed single-band, dual-band, and broadband THz interconnects can provide the insertion losses of 1.7, 2.7 and 2.9 dB, and lower than 3.3 dB at 306.5, 140 and 324.5 GHz, and from 140 to 330 GHz, with the return loss better than 10 dB from 256.5 to 330, 140 to 182 and 280 to 330, and 140 to 330 GHz, respectively."

According to the news reporters, the research concluded: "To the best of the authors' knowledge, the proposed THz interconnect demonstrates the first dual-band operation reported thus far."

This research has been peer-reviewed.

For more information on this research see: Low-loss Single-band, Dual-band, and Broadband Mm-wave and (Sub-)Thz Interconnects for Thz Sop Heterogeneous System Integration. IEEE Transactions on Terahertz Science and Technology, 2022;12(2):130-143. IEEE Transactions on Terahertz Science and Technology can be contacted at: Ieee-inst Electrical Electronics Engineers Inc, 445 Hoes Lane, Piscataway, NJ 08855-4141, USA. (Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers - www.ieee.org/; IEEE Transactions on Terahertz Science and Technology - ieeexplore.ieee.org/xpl/RecentIssue.jsp?punumber=5503871)

Our news journalists report that additional information may be obtained by contacting Chun-Hsing Li, National Taiwan University, Dept. of Electrical Engineering, Taipei 10617, Taiwan.

Keywords for this news article include: Taipei, Taiwan, Asia, Terahertz Science and Technology, Science, Broadband, Electronics, National Taiwan University.

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IPD Expanded Reporting

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AN Document JOENG00020220411ei4b0032d

HD Engineering - Computer Engineering; New Data from North-West University Illuminate Research in Computer Engineering (Can the WiMAX IEEE 802.16 Standard Be Used to Resolve Last-Mile Connectivity Issues in Botswana?)

WC 442 words

PD 11 April 2022

SN Journal of Engineering

SC JOENG

PG 1744

LA English

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2022 APR 11 (VerticalNews) -- By a News Reporter-Staff News Editor at Journal of Engineering -- Researchers detail new data in computer engineering. According to news originating from North-West University by VerticalNews correspondents, research stated, "Some of the advantages of using Worldwide Interoperability Microwave Access (WiMAX) technology at the last-mile level as an access technology include an extensive range of 50 km Line of Sight (LOS), 5 to 15 km Non-Line of Sight, and fewer infrastructure installations compared to other wireless broadband access technologies."

TD

Our news correspondents obtained a quote from the research from North-West University: "Despite positive investments in ICT fiber infrastructure by developing countries, including Botswana, servicing end-users is subjected to high prices and service disparities. The alternative, the Wi-Fi hotspot initiative by the Botswana government, falls short as a solution for last-mile connectivity and access. This study used OPNET simulation Modeler 14.5 to investigate whether Botswana's national broadband project could adopt WiMAX IEEE 802.16e as an access technology. Therefore, using the experimental method, the simulation evaluated the WiMAX IEEE 802.16e/m over three subscriber locations in Botswana. The results obtained indicate that the deployment of the WiMAX IEEE 802.16e standard can solve most of the deployment issues and access at the last-mile level. Although the findings suggest that WiMAX IEEE 802.16e is more suitable for high-density areas, it could also solve rural areas' infrastructure development challenges and provide the required high-speed connectivity access."

According to the news reporters, the research concluded: "However, unlike the Wi-Fi initiative, which requires more infrastructure deployment and relies less on institutional and regulatory frameworks, the deployment of WiMAX IEEE 802.16e necessitates institutional and regulatory standards."

For more information on this research see: Can the WiMAX IEEE 802.16 Standard Be Used to Resolve Last-Mile Connectivity Issues in Botswana?. Telecom, 2022,3(10):150-162. The publisher for Telecom is MDPI AG.

A free version of this journal article is available at <https://doi.org/10.3390/telecom3010010>.

Our news editors report that more information may be obtained by contacting Malebogo Mokeresete, Computer Science and Information Systems Department, North-West University, Mahikeng 2745, South Africa. Additional authors for this research include Bukohwo Michael Esiefarienrhe.

Keywords for this news article include: North-West University, Broadband, Technology, Electronics, Computer Engineering.

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CO unelc : EE Ltd. | btcom : BT Group PLC

IN i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i79022 : Wireless Telecommunications Services

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RE bots : Botswana | africaz : Africa | dvpcos : Developing Economies | souafz : Southern Africa

IPD Expanded Reporting

PUB NewsRX, LLC

AN Document JOENG00020220411ei4b00149

HD EU telcos raise security concerns after telecoms contract handed to BT - report

WC 201 words

PD 11 April 2022

SN Telecompaper Europe

SC TELEUR

LA English

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The European Commission (EC) is facing criticism from European telecoms companies for awarding a EUR 1.2 billion telecoms services contract to UK company BT, reports Politico.

According to unnamed sources familiar with the matter, the EC has provisionally awarded an 8-year contract for management of the Trans-European Services for Telematics between Administrations (TESTA), which involves handling highly sensitive EU communications, to BT. The selection of a non-EU company has sparked criticism from European telecoms providers who failed to win the contract, warning about data **privacy** and security. There also concerns about the EU's wider digital sovereignty ambitions.

TD

The TESTA service will be a fully private backbone network connecting EU agencies and bodies across the European mainland, including the EC in Brussels, Europol, the EU cybersecurity agency ENISA, and the European Defence Agency. Overall, it will connect more than 750 public entities, with the previous contract held by Deutsche Telekom. BT is understood to have won the tender after bidding from subsidiary BT Global Services Belgium. In light of the criticism, the Commission is understood to have delayed signing the framework contract to review the security concerns.

CO eudefa : European Defence Agency | eupolo : European Police Office | btcom : BT Group PLC | eucmm : European Commission

IN i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i79021 : Wired Telecommunications Services

NS c33 : Contracts/Orders | gvbod : Government Bodies | ccat : Corporate/Industrial News | c333 : Non-Government Contracts/Orders | gcat : Political/General News | gpir : Politics/International Relations | gpol : Domestic Politics | ncat : Content Types | nfact : Factiva Filters | nfcpin : C&E Industry News Filter

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PUB Telecompaper BV

AN Document TELEUR0020220411ei4b000p4

HD 4G home broadband: what is it and what are the cheapest deals in {month} {year}?

BY Alex Hughes

WC 1,320 words

PD 11 April 2022

SN TechRadar

SC TECHR

LA English

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LP

A more flexible alternative to regular internet, check out today's best 4G home broadband plans and deals.

What's 4G home broadband and why would I give up my internet plan for it? Well, for those who want some flexibility in their contract, live in a rural area with no **fibre** cables or just for those who want something a bit different, 4G home broadband could be an excellent option.

TD

4G broadband in essence is just like the regular broadband found in most homes but with a few key differences. You're still getting a steady internet connection, you can connect all of your devices and you even pay a monthly fee for it.

However, unlike regular internet which runs through cables and Wi-Fi signals, 4G broadband runs off, well...4G. That means it works in the same way as your phone, operating through a SIM card and mobile signals.

This means you don't need a phone line, you don't need to pay set-up fees and the best part...you can take it on the go. You can use it on the train, in the garden or even on the beach (if you have a long enough extension cable). You don't get that kind of thing with normal [broadband deals](#).

If all of this sounds like the ideal broadband set-up for you then you're in luck, we've gathered all of the best options and listed them down below, as well as answering a few key questions about 4G home broadband.

* Need something faster? Check out the best [fibre deals](#) and [5G home broadband](#)

4G home broadband: what is it and how does it work?

Unlike regular broadband, 4G home broadband operates through air waves instead of cables. In this sense, it's more similar to the way your phone operates when using mobile data.

Also unlike regular broadband there is no set-up process needed. All you need to do is plug in the router and your internet is ready to go.

Who offers 4G home broadband?

4G broadband from Three:

[toCheeeek](#)

Three 4G Hub | [24 months](#) | [FREE upfront](#) | [24 month contract](#) | [Unlimited data](#)

Three's 4G Hub is easily the best option around for 4G Home Broadband. While the prices change frequently, we've seen them as low as £10 a month. More typically, they're around the £20 a month-mark, but you can usually rely on Three to throw in a tasty freebie to sweeten the deal. Plus, Three doesn't limit the data you can use, so there's no anxiety about using up your allowance.

4G broadband from EE:

[toCheeeek](#)

EE Mobile Broadband with 4GEE Home Router | [18 months | 100GB data | £35 a month](#)

Obviously, the major benefit to EE is its speeds. As the UK's fastest 4G network, EE will be the option to go for if you like your internet consistently fast. However, what's not so great with EE is its data caps. Unlike Three, you'll be capped on your usage (unless you pay big bucks). EE's most popular plan comes in at 100GB, offering you a pretty substantial amount to work through each month.

[toCheeeek](#)

EE Mobile Broadband with 4GEE Home Router | [30-day rolling contract | 100GB data | £150 upfront](#)

Absolutely identical to the option above with two exceptions - an upfront cost and the contract length. If the idea of shelling out for 4G broadband for a whole 18 months is too much of a commitment, this plan drops you down to a 30-day rolling contract. However, you have to pay a £150 upfront fee to get the special privileges of abandoning EE a few months in.

4G broadband from 4G National:

[toCheeeek](#)

4G National Broadband | [24 month contract | £99 upfront | unlimited data | £29.99pm](#)

National broadband is an interesting brand. It specialises in...well, 4G broadband. And while it is a bit more expensive than some of the options above, it has a stellar TrustPilot score, uses specialist equipment, offers a risk-free 14-day trial and offers nationwide installations. If you're looking for the most complete package, it's probably going to be this one.

4G broadband from Vodafone:

[toCheeeek](#)

Vodafone GigaCube | [24 months | £0 upfront | 200GB data | £40 a month](#)

With a dramatic name like 'GigaCube' you would expect a lot from Vodafone's home broadband and luckily, it delivers. For £40 a month you're getting capped at 200GB data on this package (or pay more for more data if required). Or, if 24 months is too long, you can pay a larger upfront fee to drop to a 30-day rolling contract instead.

* Need something more portable? Check out the best [mobile broadband](#)

What are the pros and cons of Home Broadband?

Pros:

- * Portable - can be taken anywhere as long as there is a plug
- * Can be a much faster option over broadband (depending on the package)
- * More flexible plans available - 1 month through to 24 months
- * Ideal if you struggle to get fixed line broadband

Cons:

- * 4G can end up costing more overall than regular broadband
- * Most plans carry download limits
- * 4G broadband can be patchy in areas making it less reliable

Below you'll find some more detailed exploration of these positives and issues:

What are the downsides to 4G Home Broadband?

More than anything, the major issue is 4G broadband's reliance on mobile data. While you can plug it in anywhere, it will need to work off 4G signals. That means if you live in the middle of nowhere or in a 4G blackspot, you will find yourself running into slow or non-existent internet.

To counter this, make sure you test the mobile speeds where you live first. If you find that you're getting next to no internet there, a regular [broadband deal](#) could be a safer bet.

If you want an even faster connection, you can also get [5G home broadband](#) plans. However, you will then need to be in an area where 5G is available. Most home broadband plans are both 4G and 5G compatible and will simply work on what is in your area.

[Click to view image \(Image credit: Artem Khyzhynskiy\)](#)

How much are installation fees?

Because there is no need to have anything installed or have any engineers come around, 4G home broadband is completely free to have set up. Wherever you get your 4G broadband from, the company will send you your retailer and you set it up yourself.

Does 4G home broadband have any data caps?

Depending on who you go with and which package you use, there is likely to be data caps. However, unlimited plans are also available. As you can guess, the more data you choose the more expensive your package becomes.

If the idea of having data caps is a major issue then [Three looks like your best choice](#), offering a number of unlimited data plans.

Does 4G broadband work as well as regular home broadband?

Neither package is necessarily better, but there are a few pros and cons that 4G broadband faces compared to regular broadband.

Firstly, the pros. 4G broadband offers more flexibility, there are more options for contract lengths and pricing and most importantly, you can take it on the go. That means you can use it anywhere there is a plug - trains, hotels etc.

However, there are negatives too. While almost all regular broadband packages have unlimited downloads and uploads, many 4G broadband packages will see you capped. And, while 4G broadband is faster, it can be more unreliable. Speeds aren't necessarily always going to be the same.

Still want more options? Then head to our main [broadband deals](#) guide for all the best tariffs out there right now.

[4G home broadband \(Future\)](#)

CO	unelc : EE Ltd. btcom : BT Group PLC
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HD **Fury as EU signs deal with BT to tackle confidential data - 'Smacks of hypocrisy'**

BY Sean Meleady

WC 559 words

PD 9 April 2022

ET 08:36

SN express.co.uk

SC EXCO

LA English

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LP

THE EU has been blasted after awarding BT a €1.2 billion contract for telecoms services that manage highly sensitive EU communications.

Critics have argued that awarding the contract to a non-EU company could raise concerns about **privacy** and security given that the British company will be handling highly sensitive communications. One individual with knowledge of the tender process said it was potentially "perilous" given that sensitive communications could potentially leak outside the bloc.

TD

Related articles

They told Politico: "The Commission can't fulfil its ambitions for strategic autonomy when bureaucratic loopholes allow for non-EU countries with a history of abusing privacy to benefit from multibillion contracts.

"This company will be managing the transmission of very sensitive data being sent between public bodies that are paid for by EU citizens. Risking the wider exposure of this information is perilous.

"This smacks of hypocrisy. At a time in which the Commission is pitching its objective of strategic autonomy, it is outsourcing the management of sensitive communications to third countries.

"For those that supported Brexit, this proves that you can leave the EU but your companies can still cream off billion-euro EU contracts.

The Trans-European Services for Telematics between Administrations is meant to be a fully private "backbone" network that preserves the confidentiality and privacy of communications.

It links EU agencies and bodies across the Continent, from the Commission in Brussels to the likes of Europol, the EU's cybersecurity agency ENISA, or the European Defense Agency.

The commission has said the network connects more than 750 public entities and is designed for "sensitive pan-European information exchanges."

Deutsche Telekom held the previous contract and several EU firms had been in the running to win the new contract.

READ MORE:Ukraine: 24,000 Russian troops flee as US sends in new lethal

BT had managed to win first place for the tender after applying through its Belgian subsidiary, BT Global Services Belgium.

The term of the contract is eight years and the provision of services due to commence last year will begin this year.

In the time since the contract was awarded, however, it is understood that the Commission has had to suspend the signature of the framework contract, pending a review of the concerns raised.

A spokesperson for BT wouldn't comment on speculation but emphasised the "secure" and "resilient" nature of the organisation.

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They said: "BT operates one of the most secure and resilient global networks, which is trusted by the world's leading multinational companies and international organisations."

In the past Brussels has been concerned about the impacts of intrusive British espionage and the UK's membership of the Five Eyes security alliance.

The European Court of Human Rights said in a 2018 ruling that UK authorities had violated privacy rights in its mass surveillance program, as well as having unlawfully shared data with global partners.

Related articles Irish PM savaged after claiming Brexiteers are 'undermining' EU deal EU chief squirms in probe over 'weakish' Russian ban French presidential candidate vows to hold referendum on EU

CO btcom : BT Group PLC

IN i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i79021 : Wired Telecommunications Services

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PUB Express Newspapers

AN Document EXCO000020220408ei48001gy

SE News
HD **Lansio gornest fawreddog i gydnabod prentisiaid disglair Cymru**
WC 776 words
PD 9 April 2022
SN The Western Mail
SC WESMAI
ED 1; National
PG 42
LA English
CY © 2022 Western Mail and Echo Ltd
LP

Mae prentisiaethau'n gwneud cyfraniad enfawr at ein HECONOMI ADVERTISING FEATURE

BYDD cyfle i sêr Rhaglen Brentisiaethau Llywodraeth Cymru ddisgleirio yng ngornest fawreddog Gwobrau Prentisiaethau Cymru eleni eto. Mae cyflogwyr llwyddiannus, prentisiaid ysbrydoledig ac ymarferwyr dawnus dysgu seliedig **ar** waith yn cael eu hannog i ymgeisio er mwyn arddangos y rhyfeddodau y maent wedi'u cyflawni yn y cyfnod anodd hwn.

TD

Y gwobrau yw uchafbwynt y flwyddyn i brentisiaid, cyflogwyr, a darparwyr ac ymarferwyr dysgu seiliedig ar waith. Cânt eu trefnu gan Lywodraeth Cymru a'u cefnogi gan Ffederasiwn Hyfforddiant Cenedlaethol Cymru (NTfW). Eleni, am y drydedd flwyddyn, Openreach yw'r prif noddwr.

Yn ddiweddar, cyhoeddodd Llywodraeth Cymru fuddsoddiad o £366 miliwn dros y tair blynedd nesaf i ddarparu 125,000 o brentisiaethau bob-oed ledled Cymru yn ystod tymor presennol y Senedd, y disgwylir iddo ddod i ben yn 2026.

Dywedodd Gweinidog yr Economi, Vaughan Gething: "Mae prentisiaethau'n gwneud cyfraniad enfawr at ein heconomi a byddant yn hollbwysig wrth i Gymru barhau i ddod dros y pandemig.

Gallant helpu i baratoi gweithlu at y dyfodol, ei ysgogi a sicrhau amrywiaeth, gan roi cyfle i bobl ennill sgiliau galwedigaethol o safon uchel.

"Bydd buddsoddiad Llywodraeth Cymru o £366 miliwn yn gwella cyfleoedd i bobl o bob oed a chefnidir i ddatblygu sgiliau trosglwyddadwy yn y gweithle a gwella'u bywydau.

"Bydd hefyd yn helpu i fynd i'r afael â phrinder sgiliau a bylchau mewn sgiliau yn y sectorau blaenoriaeth. Mae hyn yn hollbwysig er mwyn hybu cynhyrchiant a thwf economaidd, gan gefnogi ein huchelgeisiau sero net, yr economi sylfaenol a gwasanaethau cyhoeddus.

"Hoffwn annog pawb sy'n ymwneud â'n Rhaglen Brentisiaethau i ddathlu'r hyn y maent wedi'i gyflawni, gan ysbrydoli eraill i ddilyn eu hesiampl trwy gymryd rhan yng Ngwobrau Prentisiaethau Cymru eleni a rhannu'r straeon am eu llwyddiant."

Dywedodd Connie Dixon, Cyfarwyddwr Partneriaeth Openreach yng Nghymru: "Openreach yw'r cwmni preifat sy'n recriwtio'r nifer fwyaf o brentisiaid yng Nghymru ac felly rydym yn falch iawn o fod yn brif noddwr y gwobrau eleni eto.

"Mae prentisiaid yn chwarae rhan hanfodol yn Openreach gan ddod â sgiliau, egni a ffyrdd newydd o weithio i'r busnes a'n helpu i ddatblygu ein rhwydwaith ffeibr cyflym iawn ledled Cymru.

"Rydym yn rhoi gwerth mawr ar recriwtio prentisiaid newydd i swyddi amrywiol iawn ac rydym yn gwerthfawrogi'r cyfraniad sylweddol y maent yn ei wneud nid yn unig i Openreach ond hefyd i economi ehangach Cymru."

Beth mae enillwyr Blaenorol yn ei ddweud Cwmni peirianeg o Raeadr Gwy, Compact Orbital Gears, enillodd Wobr Cyflogwr Bach y Flwyddyn y llynedd ac roedden nhw'n barod iawn i sôn am werth y gwobrau i'r busnes.

Dyweddodd Tricia Evans, y rheolydd ariannol: "Roedd ennill y wobr y llynedd yn brofiad arbennig iawn i ni fel cwmni peirianeg bach gwledig yn y Canolbarth. Oherwydd problemau recriwtio dros amser, mae'n hanfodol i dwf y cwmni ein bod yn cyflogi prentisiaid ac yn cadw ein gweithlu.

"Rydym yn falch o gael ein cydnabod am ein gwaith gyda phrentisiaid - mae 36% o'n gweithlu wedi gwneud prentisiaethau gyda ni. Ar hyn o bryd mae gennym ddau brentis ac rydym yn chwilio am ragor achos rydym wedi gweld eu bod yn gydwybodol, yn weithgar ac yn barod i gymryd cyfrifoldeb yn gyflym o dan arweiniad ein mentoriaid.

"Rydym yn defnyddio'r dechnoleg ddiweddaraf i wneud rigiau prawf pwrpasol i ateb gofynion ein cwsmeriaid sy'n gweithio yn y sectorau Fformiwla 1, E-geir, awyrofod ac ynni glân, ac rydym yn adnewyddu tyrbinau gwynt hefyd."

Sut i wneud CAIS Gellir lawrlwytho'r ffurflenni cais y gwobrau o llyw.cymru/ gwobrau-prentisiaethau-cymru a rhaid ymgeisio cyn 12 (ganol dydd), 20 Mai 2022.

O blith yr holl ymgeiswyr, bydd rhestrau byrion yn cael eu tynnu mewn naw categori. Mae gwobrau ar gyfer Prentis Sylfaen, Prentis a Phrentis Uwch y Flwyddyn sy'n cynnwys prentisiaid gradd eleni, am y tro cyntaf.

Mae categori "Doniau'r Dyfodol" yn rhoi cyfle i gyflogwyr enwebu prentis sydd ganddyn nhw ar hyn o bryd ac sydd 'wedi dangos cynnydd personol sylweddol' ac wedi rhoi 'hwb pendant a chadarnhaol i berfformiad sefydliad y cyflogwr'.

Caiff busnesau llwyddiannus eu cydnabod â gwobrau ar gyfer Cyflogwr Bach, Canolig, Mawr a Macro-gyflogwr y Flwyddyn.

Mae gwobr Ymarferydd y Flwyddyn Dysgu Seiliedig ar Waith yn cydnabod pobl sy'n gwneud y gwaith pwysig o gyflenwi prentisiaethau. Caiff y Rhaglen Brentisiaethau ei hariannu gan Lywodraeth Cymru gyda chymorth Cronfa Gymdeithasol Ewrop (ESF). Os hoffech wybod rhagor am recriwtio prentis, ewch i: llyw.cymru/prentisiaethaudewis-doeth neu ffonio 03000 603000.

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PUB Reach Plc

AN Document WESMAI0020220409ei490003b

HD UK's SMEs badly lacking in **cyber** protection, says BT

BY posted by BT

WC 876 words

PD 8 April 2022

SN Total Telecom Plus

SC TOTEL

LA English

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LP

BT estimates thousands of the UK's smallest firms could be leaving themselves open to **cyber**-attack because they have little or no business-grade **cyber** security measures in place, according to new research it has commissioned

The survey of 1,000 decision makers at UK businesses has found that many thousands of small firms may be at risk – despite having security measures in place – because they are relying on security products which are not designed for business use.

TD

With the majority of small firms moving online during the pandemic, opportunistic cyber criminals have also stepped up their efforts to target them. The Government's recent Cyber Security Breaches survey found that almost half of all UK small businesses suffered a cyber security breach or attack last year.

However, despite the increased threat, BT's latest research reveals more than half (51%) of the micro business sector, which make up the bulk of the UK's 5.5 million SMEs, do not have the right level of cyber protection in place and are relying on security products which are designed to protect consumers rather than businesses.

The research also found 4% of SME businesses aren't using any cyber protection at all, with this figure being even higher (17%) for micro businesses, i.e. those with 1-5 employees. From this data, BT estimates thousands of businesses across the UK do not have any cyber protection in place and require more support to help keep them safe online[2].

BT, a leader in cyber security with 3,000 experts across the globe, has enhanced its cyber protection for small businesses by introducing new online tools and advice led resources to help small businesses better protect themselves from online attacks. The development comes as its research found that over half (55%) of SMEs which lack cyber protection believe their business isn't big enough to be targeted by cyber criminals, revealing that many remain complacent around the risk of attack.

Chris Sims, Managing Director for BT's SoHo (Single Office/Home Office, unit, said): "There has been a huge shift over the past two years in the number of small firms moving their business online. Whilst that's a really encouraging trend, being an online business can also bring its challenges, particularly around cyber security.

"Any digital business – large or small – can be a target for cyber criminals, and this is something we've seen during the pandemic. And whilst consumer-grade products are great for protecting you while surfing the web, accessing emails and other personal use, they're not designed for running a business which requires more robust protection and safeguards.

"It's clear that the UK's smallest firms need more support in this area, so today we're launching new free cyber security tools for our BT business broadband customers, together with free online advice to help upskill small businesses on how to stay safe online."

Small businesses can now benefit from free BT Content Control and BT Web Protect included as standard with their BT business broadband, providing built-in protection to keep their business safe online. BT Content Control works by allowing the customer to configure their web traffic according to the categories they wish to block or allow, while BT Web Protect warns the customer if they are trying to access suspicious URLs which could carry harmful malware.

BT is also offering business antivirus protection, provided by McAfee, giving small firms business-grade device security to protect multiple devices from the latest online threats using email, web, and firewall protection. This can be purchased by BT customers placing orders for business broadband, mobile, or as stand-alone from just £4.99 per month, which covers up to five desktop devices plus unlimited mobile devices, including tablets.

Alongside the new online tools, BT has launched the next phase of its 'The Future is Now' campaign with a focus on helping businesses to stay safe online, featuring advice-led content from partners such as the National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC). A new interactive tool developed by BT is also available online to help small businesses spot cyber threats in workplace scenarios and learn how to combat them.

Small businesses can also gain access to cyber security guidance from BT's Skills for Tomorrow programme, with free webinars on topics such as how to spot attacks and how to avoid opening risky files or visiting phishing sites.

Notes:

[1] According to the UK Government's Cyber Security Breaches Survey

[2] BT estimation based on 827 Decision Makers from SMEs – with 3.9% of SME businesses not having cyber protection at all, and UK SME population size is 5.5m according to latest figures from FSB UK Small Business Statistics | FSB, The Federation of Small Businesses

Does cybersecurity need more prominence in public discourse? Is society lacking key skills to partake in a more digital society? Find out from the experts at this year's live Connected Britain conference Also in the news: The Greater Manchester Authority talks digital investment at Connected North 2022 TIM refuses to let KKR look at its books Spectrum Coordination Act set to smooth collaboration between FCC and NTIA

RF 513014

CO btcom : BT Group PLC

IN i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i79021 : Wired Telecommunications Services

NS csmlbs : Small/Medium Businesses | ghack : Cybercrime/Hacking | ccat : Corporate/Industrial News | gcvir : Malware | gcat : Political/General News | gcrim : Crime/Legal Action | ncat : Content Types | nfact : Factiva Filters | nfcpx : C&E Executive News Filter

RE uk : United Kingdom | eurz : Europe | weurz : Western Europe

IPD Press

PUB Terrapinn Limited

AN Document TOTEL00020220408ei4800003

HD BAI Communications completes first milestone of its rollout

BY CT Bureau

CR Distributed by Contify.com

WC 571 words

PD 8 April 2022

SN Communications Today

SC ATCOMT

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LP

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Customers of Three and EE are the first to be confirmed to have permanent access to 4G and 5G-ready communications between Westminster and Canning Town. The **connectivity** has been available as part of a pilot service since March 2020. This follows agreements made last year by both mobile operators to join BAI's network, making them the first to cement their commitment to providing coverage to London Underground passengers.

TD

Whilst on this section of the Jubilee Line, customers will continue to be able to check the latest travel information, keep on top of their emails, catch up on social media, live stream videos wherever they are on the Underground.

Permanent service has been enabled by BAI, who were awarded a 20-year concession by Transport for London (TfL) in June 2021 to deliver mobile connectivity on the Underground. This marks the completion of the first milestone of BAI's Connected London project, which has seen the handover of all infrastructure as well as the development and refinement of the previous network support model to meet the needs of a permanent commercial service.

Billy D'Arcy, CEO of BAI Communications UK, said: "We're pleased to announce this first major delivery milestone on our journey to transforming London's connectivity. Customers of our launch partners, Three and EE, will be able to enjoy permanent access to uninterrupted mobile connectivity whilst travelling on the eastern Jubilee Line. This will provide a massive boost to the passenger experience and marks an important next step on the project's journey as we accelerate towards a hyperconnected London."

Shashi Verma, Chief Technology Officer at TfL, said: "It's great that following our successful pilot over the last two years, BAI Communications will now be permanently providing 4G coverage to the eastern section of the Jubilee line. We Look forward to coverage being extended to more stations and tunnels in the coming years, which will provide greater connectivity to customers and support London's economic recovery."

Robert Finnegan, CEO, Three said: "We at Three are investing more than £2bn in transforming our network and IT infrastructure as we continue to deliver 'Better connectivity, Every day for Every customer'. We're delighted that Three customers are amongst the first, on parts of the London Underground, to enjoy great connectivity and look forward to coverage extending across the entire tube network in the not-too-distant future."

Marc Allera, CEO Consumer Division, BT Group, said: "In 2020, EE brought our UK leading 4G network to the London Underground for the first time, as part of a trial on the Jubilee Line. We're delighted that service is now being made permanent for our customers, as the first step to delivering full EE connectivity throughout the entire tube network by 2024."

Progress on the project continues with work across London, with work along the Elizabeth line and at Oxford Circus, Tottenham Court Road, Bank, Euston and Camden Town all on track to become

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CO bcommhp : BAI Communications Pty Ltd | tspfl : Transport for London | lundel : London Underground Limited | unelc : EE Ltd. | btcom : BT Group PLC

IN i7902202 : Mobile Telecommunications | i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i79022 : Wireless Telecommunications Services | i721 : Urban/Commuter Transit | i79023 : Satellite Telecommunications Services | irailtr : Land Transport | itsp : Transportation/Logistics

NS ccat : Corporate/Industrial News

RE london : London (UK) | eland : England | uk : United Kingdom | eurz : Europe | weurz : Western Europe

PUB ADI Media Pvt. Ltd.

AN Document ATCOMT0020220408ei480002u

HD Hutchison 3G UK Holdings Ltd. - Mobile **connectivity** on the eastern section of the Jubilee Line made permanent

CR Hutchison 3G UK Holdings Ltd. published this content on 07 Apr 2022 and is solely responsible for the information contained herein. Distributed by PUBT, unedited and unaltered, on 07 Apr 2022 14:55:57 UTC.

WC 769 words

PD 7 April 2022

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SC PCNVB

LA English

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LP

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Mobile **connectivity** on the eastern section of the Jubilee Line made permanent

TD

Mobile connectivity on the eastern section of the Jubilee Line made permanent

Press release 7th April 2022 Network

* Passengers on the London Underground are set to enjoy permanent high-speed mobile coverage between Westminster and Canning Town

* The takeover marks the completion of the first major project milestone, with coverage on platforms and tunnels on the Elizabeth Line set to go live later this year

* Three and EE were the first mobile operators to join BAI Communications' network in December 2021, which will enable mobile coverage across the Underground by the end of 2024

London, 7 April 2022 - BAI Communications (BAI) has completed the first milestone of its rollout of high-speed mobile coverage across the London Underground as it launches a permanent 4G service on the eastern section of the Jubilee Line.

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Progress on the project continues with work across London, with work along the Elizabeth line and at Oxford Circus, Tottenham Court Road, Bank, Euston and Camden Town all on track to become connected by the end of 2022. All stations and tunnels across the Tube network are due to have high-quality and uninterrupted mobile coverage by the end of 2024.

* [Original Link](#)

Disclaimer

Hutchison 3G UK Holdings Ltd. published this content on 07 April 2022 and is solely responsible for the information contained therein. Distributed by [Public](#), unedited and unaltered, on 07 April 2022 14:56:14 UTC.

CO bcmmhp : BAI Communications Pty Ltd | unelc : EE Ltd. | btcom : BT Group PLC

IN i7902202 : Mobile Telecommunications | i721 : Urban/Commuter Transit | i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i79022 : Wireless Telecommunications Services | irailtr : Land Transport | itsp : Transportation/Logistics | i79023 : Satellite Telecommunications Services

NS gtrans : Transport | ccat : Corporate/Industrial News | npress : Press Releases | gcat : Political/General News | ncat : Content Types

RE london : London (UK) | eland : England | uk : United Kingdom | eurz : Europe | weurz : Western Europe

PUB PUBT Inc

AN Document PCNVB00020220407ei47007k9

HD	BAI Communications enables permanent 4G connectivity on Jubilee line
WC	98 words
PD	7 April 2022
SN	Telecompaper Europe
SC	TELEUR
LA	English
CY	Copyright 2022 Telecompaper. All Rights Reserved.
LP	<p>BAI Communications has completed the first milestone of its London underground mobile connectivity upgrade project, with permanent a 4G service now available on the eastern section of the Jubilee line between Westminster and Canning Town.</p> <p>Customers of mobile network operators EE and 3 UK are the first to get permanent access to 4G and 5G-ready communications on the line. Coverage will go live on platforms and tunnels on the Elizabeth line later in 2022, with all stations and tunnels across the Tube network getting permanent mobile coverage by end-2024.</p>
CO	bcmhnp : BAI Communications Pty Ltd unelc : EE Ltd. btcom : BT Group PLC
IN	i7902202 : Mobile Telecommunications i7902 : Telecommunication Services i79022 : Wireless Telecommunications Services i79023 : Satellite Telecommunications Services
NS	ccat : Corporate/Industrial News
RE	eurz : Europe
PUB	Telecompaper BV
AN	Document TELEUR0020220407ei47000jw

HD BT Group announces GBP 1,500 pay increase for frontline workers

WC 117 words

PD 7 April 2022

SN Telecompaper Europe

SC TELEUR

LA English

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LP

BT Group has announced a GBP 1,500 consolidated pay increase to the annual salaries of all BT, Openreach, Plusnet and EE frontline workers, effective from 01 April 2022.

This represents an increase of up to 8 percent for some workers, and over 3 percent for the highest-paid frontline employees. BT said the award was a recognition for workers "keeping the country connected" during the pandemic. In 2021, BT paid frontline workers a GBP 1,000 cash **payment**, on top of shares worth GBP 500, equal to a 5 percent increase in average salary. The Communications Workers Union (CWU) is currently consulting with members on this award.

CO btcom : BT Group PLC

IN i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i79021 : Wired Telecommunications Services

NS cwrkpa : Workers Pay | ccat : Corporate/Industrial News | c42 : Labor/Personnel | ncat : Content Types | nfact : Factiva Filters | nfcpin : C&E Industry News Filter

RE eurz : Europe

PUB Telecompaper BV

AN Document TELEUR0020220407ei47000gp

HD UK small businesses vulnerable to **cyber** attack - BT research

WC 255 words

PD 7 April 2022

SN Telecompaper Europe

SC TELEUR

LA English

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LP

Thousands of small businesses in the UK are leaving themselves open to **cyber** attacks by not having any **cyber** protection or using products not designed for business use, according to new research from BT.

More than half of SMEs without **cyber** security think their business is too small to be targeted. Micro businesses, companies with 1-5 employees, have **cyber** security measures most in need of attention - with 17 percent having no protection and 51 percent using consumer-grade products. The research comes as BT launches free new **cyber** security tools for small business customers.

TD

Chris Sims, Managing Director for BT's SoHo unit, said that a massive number of small businesses have moved their business online in the last two years, and warned that any business can be a target for cyber criminals. BT is now launching free new cyber security tools for BT business broadband customers, as well as free online advice to help them upskill and stay safe online.

Small business customers can now get free BT Content Control and BT Web Protect included as standard with their BT business broadband. BT is also offering McAfee Business Antivirus Protection to BT customers ordering business broadband, mobile or as a standalone from GBP 4.99 per month. The new tools are supported by the next phase of BT's ['The Future is Now'](#) campaign to help businesses stay safe online, with free advice-led content from partners including the National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC).

CO btcom : BT Group PLC

IN i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i3302 : Computers/Consumer Electronics | itech : Technology | i79021 : Wired Telecommunications Services

NS csmlbs : Small/Medium Businesses | c22 : New Products/Services | ghack : Cybercrime/Hacking | ccat : Corporate/Industrial News | cexpro : Products/Services | gcat : Political/General News | gcrim : Crime/Legal Action | ncat : Content Types | nfact : Factiva Filters | nfcpx : C&E Executive News Filter | nfcpin : C&E Industry News Filter

RE eurz : Europe

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HD BAI Communications Pty Ltd. - Mobile **connectivity** on the eastern section of the Jubilee Line made permanent, as BAI Communications completes first milestone of its rollout

CR BAI Communications Pty Ltd. published this content on 07 Apr 2022 and is solely responsible for the information contained herein. Distributed by PUBT, unedited and unaltered, on 07 Apr 2022 07:15:24 UTC.

WC 774 words

PD 7 April 2022

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For more information, contact:

Jeremy Spencer, Marketing and Communications Director, BAI Communications UK,
jeremy.spencer@baicomunications.com

* [Original Link](#)

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RE london : London (UK) | eland : England | uk : United Kingdom | eurz : Europe | weurz : Western Europe

PUB PUBT Inc

AN Document PCNVB00020220407ei47001p5



SE News
HD BT **cyber** role lets me learn while I earn
BY JOBS TRICIA PHILLIPS
WC 803 words
PD 7 April 2022
SN The Daily Mirror
SC DMIRR
ED 1; Ulster
PG 34
LA English
CY © 2022 Mirror Group Ltd
LP

CYBER threats and online scams are a constant threat to us all but Josh Callicott is right in the midst of it.

The 22-year-old from Bristol is a **cyber** security degree apprentice for BT whose 3,000-strong **cyber** team works round the clock to keep BT itself and its customers safe from hackers.

TD

What does your job involve?

I'm in my third year now working in BT's Cyber Threat Intelligence

Domain. Throughout the apprenticeship I have rotated around different areas of the business but my day-to-day work role includes network threat analysis, and communicating cyber threat intelligence to a wide audience.

"

That might mean analysing data, figuring out how a piece of code has been infiltrated, or looking at malware. The job is so varied. What I love is that it's all about

I will get degree haven't borrow money get paid helping people.

Why did you go into cyber security? As I child I was always interested in technology as it acted as a leveller between myself and my peers, as I have cerebral palsy which meant I couldn't always do the same things as them. I always thought I would be a teacher but I ended up doing a BTEC in computing which gradually changed my mind. It turned out that was the perfect stepping stone to what I am doing now.

Why didn't you opt for uni?

I didn't fancy university in the end because I wanted to begin building my career and experience while earning money. Apprenticeships allow you to get real-life experience. I found out about the degree apprenticeships via my Sixth Form Careers Advisor who was so helpful.

The great thing about an apprenticeship is that after four years I will have a full degree from an accredited university, yet I haven't had to pay any tuition fees or borrow money. I'm being paid a salary while I'm learning too - so no student debt.

What has it been like juggling work, study and a pandemic? As for most people it has certainly been a challenge. I have been really supported by BT but going from a five-day office week to always at home meant adjusting.

a full but I had to any and I too

My university went online and has stayed that way which has been good for me as it has given me more opportunity to focus on learning. I get one day a week to devote to studying but even so making sure you hit deadlines can be tricky.

You just have to keep your head down. We have slowly started to return to the office and BT has adopted a smart working culture which has allowed me and my colleagues to be flexible in how we work and get the job done for our customers.

What do you love about the job? The main thing I love is being able to make a real difference to a nation by keeping them secure. The variety is great too and there is always someone willing and able to answer my questions.

Why do you recommend degree apprenticeships? They might not be for everyone but for someone like me who learns by doing, not just being in a classroom, they give you a big opportunity to build solid foundations for your career through direct exposure to industry and real-world responsibilities.

Cyber jobs If you want to follow in Josh's footsteps check out bt.com/careers/early-careers/apprentices/ourprogrammes where there are currently a number of BT Security apprentice roles and degree apprenticeships in a variety of areas. These include threat intelligence, SOC (security operation centre) analysts, customer service, security, power engineering and security software engineering.

At fish4jobs.co.uk we spotted 495 cyber security jobs including a graduate cyber engineer in Cambridge (£28,000), a cyber security consultant in Bristol (£40,000 to £60,000), and a cyber security lead in Cirencester (£50-£60,000).

There are also 21,304 general IT jobs to consider. At findajob.dwp.gov.uk there are 513 cyber jobs ranging from a senior cyber security analyst for the NHS in Powys (£25,655 to £31,534) to a cyber infrastructure engineer in Birmingham (£30,734 to £34,708).

There are also Kickstart cyber security engineers' openings across the country offering unemployed youngsters the chance to get paid work experience. If you are interested in IT there are 43,174 jobs on offer. Check out notgoingtouni.co.uk for 102 cyber apprenticeships and training roles including training boot camps.

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CO btcom : BT Group PLC

IN i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i79021 : Wired Telecommunications Services

NS cemtpd : Employee Training/Development | gspam : Spamming | c42 : Labor/Personnel | ccat : Corporate/Industrial News | gcat : Political/General News | gcom : Society/Community | ncat : Content Types | nfact : Factiva Filters | nfcpin : C&E Industry News Filter

PUB Reach Plc

AN Document DMIRR00020220407ei47000ed



SE News
HD **BT cyber** role lets me learn while I earn
BY TRICIA PHILLIPS
WC 792 words
PD 7 April 2022
SN The Daily Mirror
SC DMIRR
ED 1; National
PG 42
LA English
CY © 2022 Mirror Group Ltd
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PUB Reach Plc

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SE Special Features
HD **Lansio gornest fawreddog i gydnabod prentisiaid disglair Cymru**
BY By, Lucinda Reid
WC 775 words
PD 6 April 2022
ET 10:26
SN walesonline.co.uk
SC WALESONL
LA English
CY © 2022 Reach Plc
LP

Mae prentisiaethau'n gwneud cyfraniad enfawr at ein heconomi

Bydd cyfle i sêr Rhaglen Brentisiaethau Llywodraeth Cymru ddisgleirio yng ngornest fawreddog [Gwobrau Prentisiaethau Cymru](#) eleni eto. Mae cyflogwyr llwyddiannus, prentisiaid ysbrydoledig ac ymarferwyr dawnus dysgu seliedig **ar** waith yn cael eu hannog i ymgeisio er mwyn arddangos y rhyfeddodau y maent wedi'u cyflawni yn y cyfnod anodd hwn.

TD

Y gwobrau yw uchafbwynt y flwyddyn i brentisiaid, cyflogwyr, a darparwyr ac ymarferwyr dysgu seiliedig ar waith. Cnt eu trefnu gan Lywodraeth Cymru a'u cefnogi gan Ffederasiwn Hyfforddiant Cenedlaethol Cymru NTfW. Eleni, am y drydedd flwyddyn, Openreach yw'r prif noddwr.

Yn ddiweddar, cyhoeddodd Llywodraeth Cymru fuddsoddiad o £366 miliwn dros y tair blynedd nesaf i ddarparu 125,000 o brentisiaethau bob-oed ledled Cymru yn ystod tymor presennol y Senedd, y disgwylir iddo ddod i ben yn 2026.

Dyweddodd Gweinidog yr Economi, Vaughan Gething: "Mae prentisiaethau'n gwneud cyfraniad enfawr at ein heconomi a byddant yn hollbwysig wrth i Gymru barhau i ddod dros y pandemig. Gallant helpu i baratoi gweithlu at y dyfodol, ei ysgogi a sicrhau amrywiaeth, gan roi cyfle i bobl ennill sgiliau galwedigaethol o safon uchel.

"Bydd buddsoddiad Llywodraeth Cymru o £366 miliwn yn gwella cyfleoedd i bobl o bob oed a chefnidir i ddatblygu sgiliau trosglwyddadwy yn y gweithle a gwella'u bywydau.

"Bydd hefyd yn helpu i fynd i'r afael phrinder sgiliau a bylchau mewn sgiliau yn y sectorau blaenoriaeth. Mae hyn yn hollbwysig er mwyn hybu cynhyrchiant a thwf economaidd, gan gefnogi ein huchelgeisiau sero net, yr economi sylfaenol a gwasanaethau cyhoeddus.

"Hoffwn annog pawb sy'n ymwneud 'n Rhaglen Brentisiaethau i ddathlu'r hyn y maent wedi'i gyflawni, gan ysbrydoli eraill i ddilyn eu hesiampl trwy gymryd rhan yng Ngwobrau Prentisiaethau Cymru eleni a rhannu'r straeon am eu llwyddiant."

Dyweddodd Connie Dixon, Cyfarwyddwr Partneriaeth Openreach yng Nghymru: "Openreach yw'r cwmni preifat sy'n recriwtio'r nifer fwyaf o brentisiaid yng Nghymru ac felly rydym yn falch iawn o fod yn brif noddwr y gwobrau eleni eto.

"Mae prentisiaid yn chwarae rhan hanfodol yn Openreach gan ddod sgiliau, egni a ffyrdd newydd o weithio i'r busnes a'n helpu i ddatblygu ein rhwydwaith ffeibr cyflym iawn ledled Cymru.

"Rydym yn rhoi gwerth mawr ar recriwtio prentisiaid newydd i swyddi amrywiol iawn ac rydym yn gwerthfawrogi'r cyfraniad sylweddol y maent yn ei wneud nid yn unig i Openreach ond hefyd i economi ehangach Cymru."

Beth mae enillwyr blaenorol yn ei ddweud

Cwmni peirianeg o Raeadr Gwy, Compact Orbital Gears, enillodd Wobr Cyflogwr Bach y Flwyddyn y llynedd ac roedden nhw'n barod iawn i sôn am werth y gwobrau i'r busnes.

Dyweddodd Tricia Evans, y rheolydd ariannol: "Roedd ennill y wobr y llynedd yn brofiad arbennig iawn i ni fel cwmni peirianeg bach gwledig yn y Canolbarth. Oherwydd problemau recriwtio dros amser, mae'n hanfodol i dwf y cwmni ein bod yn cyflogi prentisiaid ac yn cadw ein gweithlu.

"Rydym yn falch o gael ein cydnabod am ein gwaith gyda phrentisiaid -mae 36% o'n gweithlu wedi gwneud prentisiaethau gyda ni. Ar hyn o bryd mae gennym ddau brentis ac rydym yn chwilio am ragor achos rydym wedi gweld eu bod yn gydwybodol, yn weithgar ac yn barod i gymryd cyfrifoldeb yn gyflym o dan arweiniad ein mentoriaid.

"Rydym yn defnyddio'r dechnoleg ddiweddaraf i wneud rigiau prawf pwrpasol i ateb gofynion ein cwsmeriaid sy'n gweithio yn y sectorau Fformiwl 1, E-geir, awyrodod ac ynni glw, ac rydym yn adnewyddu tyrbinau gwynt hefyd."

Sut i wneud cais

Gellir lawrlwytho'r ffurflenni cais y gwobrau o llyw.cymru/gwobrau-prentisiaethau-cymru a rhaid ymgeisio cyn 12 ganol dydd, 20 Mai 2022.

O blith yr holl ymgeiswyr, bydd rhestrau byrion yn cael eu tynnu mewn naw categori. Mae gwobrau ar gyfer Prentis Sylfaen, Prentis a Phrentis Uwch y Flwyddyn sy'n cynnwys prentisiaid gradd eleni, am y tro cyntaf.

Mae categori "Doniau'r Dyfodol" yn rhoi cyfle i gyflogwyr enwebu prentis sydd ganddyn nhw ar hyn o bryd ac sydd 'wedi dangos cynnydd personol sylweddol' ac wedi rhoi 'hwb pendant a chadarnhaol i berfformiad sefydliad y cyflogwr'.

Caiff busnesau llwyddiannus eu cydnabod gwobrau ar gyfer Cyflogwr Bach, Canolig, Mawr a Macro-gyflogwr y Flwyddyn. Mae gwobr Ymarferydd y Flwyddyn Dysgu Seiliedig ar Waith yn cydnabod pobl sy'n gwneud y gwaith pwysig o gyflenwi prentisiaethau.

Caiff y Rhaglen Brentisiaethau ei hariannu gan Lywodraeth Cymru gyda chymorth Cronfa Gymdeithasol Ewrop ESF. Os hoffech wybod rhagor am recriwtio prentis, ewch i: llyw.cymru/prentisiaethau-dewis-doeth neu ffonio 03000 603000.

CO btcom : BT Group PLC
IN i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i79021 : Wired Telecommunications Services
RE wales : Wales | eurz : Europe | uk : United Kingdom | weurz : Western Europe
PUB Reach Plc
AN Document WALES0NL20220406ei4600109

HD **MSP hears latest on full fibre broadband**

BY Shirley Bartynek

WC 334 words

PD 6 April 2022

SN East Kilbride News

SC KILBRIN

ED 1ST

PG 9

LA English

CY © 2022 Reach Plc

LP

Nicola Findlay

Collette Stevenson got up to speed with broadband at a drop-in session at the Scottish Parliament.

TD

The East Kilbride MSP met engineers and apprentices from Openreach to discuss the roll out of full-fibre broadband and the economic benefits fast, reliable connectivity is bringing to Scotland during a session at Holyrood.

The MSP was updated on work being done to upgrade the country's broadband network – with a major upgrade about to start in East Kilbride – and also met apprentices Hayley Goldthorpe and Jack Cotton to hear first-hand about their experiences.

Openreach recently announced it will create and fill around 500 more Scottish jobs during 2020 – including around 390 apprenticeships – as it continues to invest billions of pounds into its UK broadband network, people and training.

Ms Stevenson said: "Reliable connectivity is a hugely important feature of life in modern Scotland and a necessity for people living and working in East Kilbride.

"Openreach engineers and apprentices are working tirelessly to roll out full fibre broadband to more communities each week.

"The event in parliament was a great opportunity to quiz management about the priorities ahead and the challenges in more complex areas of build – and discuss how policy changes could help.

"It was great to learn more about opportunities that can be unlocked, especially for remote and rural communities, by ultra-reliable full fibre broadband."

At the beginning of the year Openreach announced that more than half a million Scottish homes and businesses can connect to its new gigabit-capable, full fibre network.

Sixteen towns and villages across South Lanarkshire are included in its plans to reach 25 million premises with the technology by the end of 2026.

They include East Kilbride, where 4700 homes and businesses can already connect and work is about to start on a major upgrade, as well as places like Lanark, Carstairs, Rutherglen and Lesmahagow.

ART Connected MSP Collette Stevenson meets apprentices Hayley Goldthorpe and Jack Cotton

CO sctpmt : The Scottish Parliament | btcom : BT Group PLC

IN ibrdbi : Broadband Equipment | iwrssl : Wireless Area Network Technology | i3302 : Computers/Consumer Electronics | i3303 : Networking | i3441 : Telecommunications Equipment | itech : Technology | i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i79021 : Wired Telecommunications Services

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RE scot : Scotland | eurz : Europe | uk : United Kingdom | weurz : Western Europe

IPD East Kilbride

PUB Reach Plc

AN Document KILBRIN020220406ei460000j



HD Cellhire appoints Head of Sales - M2M & IoT **Connectivity**, Duncan Griffiths, to drive strategic growth

BY posted by Cellhire

WC 478 words

PD 5 April 2022

SN Total Telecom Plus

SC TOTEL

LA English

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LP

Global M2M and IoT mobile data specialist Cellhire has appointed Duncan Griffiths to the newly created position of Head of Sales – M2M & IoT **Connectivity**. His responsibilities – effective immediately – include leading the strategic M2M and IoT sales focus for Cellhire in the UK, France and across Europe to drive additional growth in this space. He joins Cellhire from BT, where he was Head of Sales – M2M and IoT **Connectivity**. Griffiths' 35 years' experience in mobile includes 10 years at BT in the Head of Sales position, where he worked with different MNOs and service providers and developed a deep understanding of the M2M and IoT **connectivity** market. In addition to leading the group's strategic sales focus for M2M and IoT **connectivity**, he will help to shape business identity and bring new products and solutions to market. Griffiths comments, "It's a significant and exciting time to join Cellhire.

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As a direct wholesale partner of the top three UK MNOs, and through the capabilities of its full MVNO eSIMsmart, Cellhire offers extremely competitive M2M and IoT commercials across a wide range of networks and tariffs. Additionally, Fixed IP, Custom APN, Multi-IMSI - as well as access to standard roaming networks and 40+ global local network agreements - mean Cellhire can offer roaming and in-country deployments, ensuring commercial and network flexibility. "Also, Cellhire provides real-time SIM control across multiple networks, through its self-service Atlas SIM Management & Billing Portal, which employs network-level APIs." Cellhire's capability aligns to what customers demand in deploying critical M2M and IoT solutions, including technology and network choices on a local and global basis. With my deep and extensive experience in the market, I'm looking forward to shaping Cellhire's M2M and IoT sales strategy, and further advancing the company as a global M2M and IoT mobile data specialist." Martyn Stevens, Cellhire Group CEO, says, "Duncan joins Cellhire at an exciting time as we gear up our sales resource both in the UK and France to drive growth in the M2M and IoT and Indirect Channel. "The M2M and IoT space in telecoms continues to grow rapidly. And with 2G/3G sunset, PSTN switch off and continued 5G rollouts, the opportunities will open up even further as businesses look for a connectivity upgrade path. Duncan's specialist knowledge will support the business globally, but his main focus and remit is to drive sales in the UK, France and across Europe. "Duncan joins us from BT where he has been Head of Sales – IoT Connectivity Solutions for the past 10 years. Duncan is well known in the industry and his career background, working with different MNOs and service providers, ensures he is well placed to lead our strategic sales focus in this space."

RF 512967

CO btcom : BT Group PLC

IN i7902 : Telecommunication Services | iioft : Internet-of-Things Technologies | i3302 : Computers/Consumer Electronics | i3303 : Networking | itech : Technology | i79021 : Wired Telecommunications Services

NS ccat : Corporate/Industrial News | c1513 : Sales Figures | c11 : Corporate Strategy/Planning | c411 : Management Moves | c15 : Financial Performance | c151 : Earnings | c41 : Management | ncat : Content Types | nfact : Factiva Filters | nfcpx : C&E Executive News Filter | nfcpin : C&E Industry News Filter

RE uk : United Kingdom | fra : France | eecz : European Union Countries | eurz : Europe | medz : Mediterranean | weurz : Western Europe

IPD News

PUB Terrapinn Limited



SE Global - TV
HD **Ian Cheshire Appointed Channel 4 Chair as U.K. Broadcaster Awaits Privatization Decision**
BY Naman Ramachandran
WC 509 words
PD 3 April 2022
SN Variety
SC VARTY
LA English
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Veteran businessman Ian Cheshire has been appointed the next chair of U.K. broadcaster Channel 4, media regulator Ofcom revealed on Sunday. Cheshire will join the broadcaster's board on Apr. 11, succeeding interim chair Dawn Airey.

Cheshire is currently chair of Spire Healthcare plc, chair of the environmental **investment trust** Menhaden plc, and a non-executive director of BT plc. He is also chair of the Prince of Wales Charitable Fund, and of the Mental Health at Work leadership council. He was group chief executive of Kingfisher plc from 2008-2015 and before that he was chief executive of B&Q from 2005. He has also served as chair of Barclays U.K., the British Retail Consortium, Debenhams plc and Maisons Du Monde SA, and as senior independent director at Whitbread plc.

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In public service roles, he was lead non-executive director at the Cabinet Office, has chaired the Ecosystem Markets Task Force, the Economy Honours Committee and currently chairs the independent Food Farming and Countryside Commission. He has several awards, including lifetime contributions to retailing and green business.

Cheshire will take up his role at a time when Channel 4 is awaiting a government decision regarding its privatization, which was proposed last year and has gone through an industry consultation process. The government is yet to announce a decision, which, if it goes through, would significantly alter the remit of Channel 4, a publicly owned not-for-profit corporation.

Cheshire was knighted in 2014 for services to business, sustainability and the environment and is a Chevalier of the Ordre National du Merite of France. His appointment for a three-year term has been approved by U.K. Culture Secretary Nadine Dorries.

None of the people involved in the process addressed the privatization issue directly in their prepared statements.

Dorries said: "I am delighted to approve Sir Ian Cheshire to be the new chair of Channel 4. Sir Ian has an impressive record at the helm of some of Britain's biggest businesses and I am confident his proven leadership will help Channel 4 go from strength to strength and ensure it thrives long into the future amid a time of rapid change for the sector."

Maggie Carver, Ofcom's interim chair, said: "Sir Ian is a terrific appointment for Channel 4. He has a distinguished track record in both public and private service, and will ensure the highest standards of governance and accountability as a hugely experienced chair of other major boards. I would like to thank Dawn Airey for serving so brilliantly as Channel 4's interim chair since January, and Charles Gurassa for his excellent six years of service before that."

Cheshire said: "I am excited to be joining Channel 4 at this vitally important time for public service broadcasting. As it transforms for a new era of media consumption, I look forward to helping Channel 4 deliver for viewers right across the U.K. for many years to come."

CO btcom : BT Group PLC | debs : Debenhams PLC | fobbc : Menhaden PLC | ofcom : Office of Communications | patnst : Kingfisher PLC | whit : Whitbread PLC | brraic : British Retail Consortium | chafo : Channel Four Television Corp

IN i64 : Retail/Wholesale | i648 : Household Goods/Hardware Stores | i6483 : Decorating/DIY/Hardware Stores | i654 : Specialty Retailing | i656 : Mixed Retailing | i6560002 : Department Stores | i66 : Lodgings/Restaurants/Bars | i665 : Lodgings | i6651 : Hotels/Motels | i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i79021 : Wired Telecommunications Services | i81502 : Trusts/Funds/Financial Vehicles | i8150206 : Investment Trusts | i97411 : Broadcasting | i9741102 : Television Broadcasting | ifinal : Financial Services | iinv : Investing/Securities | ilea : Leisure/Arts/Hospitality | imed : Media/Entertainment | iretail : Retail | itourm : Tourism

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RE uk : United Kingdom | eland : England | eurz : Europe | weurz : Western Europe

PUB Variety Media, LLC

AN Document VARTY00020220403ei430008d

HD Best Virgin Media Broadband Deals: Unlock Huge Discounts On Fibre Internet**BY** Aaron Brown**WC** 1,218 words**PD** 2 April 2022**ET** 12:57**SN** express.co.uk**SC** EXCO**LA** English**CY** Copyright 2022**LP**

LOOKING for the best Virgin Media broadband deals available right now? You've come to the best place. We've rounded up the latest discounts, deals, and freebies with Virgin Media full-fibre broadband.

This article contains affiliate links, we may receive a commission on any sales we generate from it. [Learn more](#)

TD

Virgin Media boasts the biggest network of superfast broadband speeds in the UK – with more than 15.5 million homes able to access download speeds of 1,130Mbps. For comparison, the average home broadband speed in the UK currently sits at just 70Mbps. However, these next-generation internet speeds can be costly ...so, you'll need to make sure you secure a great deal from Virgin Media. Thankfully, you're in the right place to do just that.

Express.co.uk has rounded up the best Virgin Media broadband deals available right now. If you're unsure about what sort of download speed you'll need, how you can switch from an Openreach-supplied firm to Virgin Media, and the perks of picking this internet provider, scroll down for more information. And if you're unsure about whether you want to sign up with Virgin Media, you can see how it compares to the competition in our in-depth guide to the best broadband deals in the UK today.

Best Virgin Media Broadband Deal Available If you're new to Virgin Media, there's only one deal that you should be considering – the M200 + Phone bundle. For £31 a month, Virgin Media will include download speeds of 213Mbps and upload speeds of 20Mbps. You'll benefit from unlimited usage too, so don't worry about an unwanted bill after you've streamed a boxset in crisp 4K Ultra HD, or downloaded the latest blockbuster 100GB+ video game to your Xbox or PlayStation.

Better yet, Virgin Media includes a landline phone with this plan too, with free calls to all UK landlines and Virgin Mobile numbers at the weekend. Of course, you're welcome to leave the handset in its box and continue using your mobile phone, but it's much better to opt for the package with the landline number as Virgin Media charges £50 a month for the same download speeds without a home phone.

To put this Virgin Media deal in perspective, Sky charges £32 a month for its Ultrafast broadband, which offers download speeds of 145Mbps. Meanwhile, BT charges £33.99 a month for its Full Fibre 2 plan, which only manages a meagre 74Mbps. Likewise, EE cannot match this price, charging its customers £32 a month for 100Mbps speeds.

Cheapest Virgin Media Broadband Deal Available Want to take advantage of Virgin Media's network of gigabit-capable broadband ...but don't fancy spending a King's ransom every month? Thankfully, Virgin Media has got you covered. And you won't have to put up with slower download speeds either. New customers can pick up an M100 fibre broadband package from Virgin Media for just £25 a month.

That's only when you include a landline phone in the bundle, if you decide to opt for broadband-only you'll be charged £44 a month for the exact same download speeds. Yikes.

With average download speeds of 108Mbps – faster than the average home broadband speed of 70Mbps, you'll be able to stream Netflix boxsets in 4K Ultra HD, make videocalls via FaceTime and

WhatsApp, stream playlists and podcasts via Spotify and Apple Music, play video games online ...all at the same time without endless buffering.

For comparison, BT charges £28.99 a month for download speeds of 36Mbps, Sky charges £25 a month for download speeds of 59Mbps, EE charges £26 a month for 36Mbps, and Plusnet charges £24.99 a month for download speeds of 66Mbps.

Why Choose Virgin Media? Virgin Media offers some of the fastest broadband speeds in the UK, with its entire network of 15.5 million homes now connected to its future-proofed internet speeds. As such, anyone who signs up to Virgin Media will be able to access these eye-wateringly fast speeds.

With the speediest connection, you'll be able to download a feature-length movie in 4K Ultra HD in under a minute. You won't be able to boil the kettle for a cuppa before your blockbuster is waiting for you, ready to watch.

That's very different to BT-owned Openreach, which is used by firms like BT, EE, TalkTalk, and Sky to connect their customers. Openreach is slowly upgrading its entire network to full-fibre connections, which offer the same 1Gbps speeds currently available for Virgin Media users. However, these are not available nationwide quite yet, with some 6 million homes already upgraded to the next-generation speeds, with plans to reach a total of 25 million premises by December 2026.

READ MORE

Unlike BT, Sky, or EE, if you have Virgin Media in your street ...you're guaranteed to be able to upgrade to the fastest download speeds. Likewise, you'll also be able to upgrade to Virgin Media's television offering, which includes access to Sky channels, including Sky Sports, Sky Cinema, Sky Comedy HD, Sky Crime, and more.

Last year, Virgin Media was awarded the fastest UK provider gong by the team at Uswitch.

But it's not all about speed. Following the £31 billion merger between Virgin Media and O2 last year, the company has brought a number of benefits previously only reserved for O2 mobile phone users to broadband customers. As such, you'll be able to access the perks of O2 Priority if you sign up for Virgin Media broadband. For those who don't know, O2 Priority offers early access to some of the biggest concerts in the UK, including the O2 Arena in London, as well as free coffees from Café Nero and Greggs to name a few.

What Virgin Media Broadband Speed Do You Really Need? Not sure what download speeds are right for you? Here's a quick guide to what your home needs.

We're all using our broadband more and more, but not everyone needs the most expensive blisteringly fast speeds. If you simply browse the web, send a few emails, and watch the odd box set on Netflix then a standard 50Mbps - 100Mbps connection should cope just fine.

Netflix itself only recommends a minimum speed of 5Mbps to watch in 1080p High Definition. Of course, you'll need 5Mbps for every stream taking place simultaneously in your household ...as well as any bandwidth used for music streaming, web browsing, and WhatsApp messages taking place at the same time.

As such, if you have a very busy home, you will definitely want something faster and it's not just about quicker downloads. Your broadband is a bit like a motorway - the more traffic that runs through it the slower it gets. So, if you have a busy house it's best to get the fastest speeds you can afford to avoid annoying buffering.

Related articles Some Virgin Media customers now get Netflix for free! Get fastest UK broadband at half the cost of Virgin Media Sky, Virgin Media and Freeview viewers get new TV channel next month

CO unelc : EE Ltd. | telwst : Virgin Media Inc. | btcom : BT Group PLC | lbmdit : Liberty Global PLC

IN iwrllsl : Wireless Area Network Technology | i3302 : Computers/Consumer Electronics | i3303 : Networking | itech : Technology | i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i79022 : Wireless Telecommunications Services | i97411 : Broadcasting | i9741109 : Cable Broadcasting | imed : Media/Entertainment

RE uk : United Kingdom | eurz : Europe | weurz : Western Europe

PUB Express Newspapers

AN Document EXCO000020220402ei42002pa

The Daily Telegraph

SE News
HD Landlines not coming back, says BT
BY Harry Brennan
WC 212 words
PD 2 April 2022
SN The Daily Telegraph
SC DT
ED 1; Scotland
PG 10
LA English
CY The Daily Telegraph © 2022. Telegraph Media Group Ltd.
LP

BT has said it is not "feasible" to reinstate landlines that have been switched off in millions of customers' homes, despite admitting new digital systems risk leaving people unable to call for help in an emergency.

Two million BT customers have had copper landlines replaced with fibre-optic cables under plans to "upgrade" all homes in Britain to new "voice over internet"

TD

systems, which depend on broadband to make calls.

But BT has halted its rollout, having conceded it had launched digital phones "too soon". The firm said it had underestimated the "disruptive effect" of the upgrade.

Marc Allera, chief executive of its consumer division, said BT was "sorry", adding that the "huge disruption" of storms Eunice and Arwen earlier this year had highlighted failings with the digital system. Some customers had been unable to dial 999 during storms because their internet was down. However, customers who have already been forced to make the change will not be able to turn their copper landlines back on.

A spokesman for BT said such a move would "not be feasible". It fears that attempting to move customers back to the older network could cause issues including loss of telephone numbers and service.

Money, page 3

CO btcom : BT Group PLC
IN i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i79021 : Wired Telecommunications Services
RE uk : United Kingdom | eurz : Europe | weurz : Western Europe
PUB Telegraph Media Group Ltd.
AN Document DT00000020220402ei42000b7

The Daily Telegraph

SE News
HD Landlines will not be reconnected, says BT
BY Harry Brennan
WC 233 words
PD 2 April 2022
SN The Daily Telegraph
SC DT
ED 1; National
PG 10
LA English
CY The Daily Telegraph © 2022. Telegraph Media Group Ltd.

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TD

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Marc Allera, chief executive of its consumer division, said BT was "sorry", adding that the "huge disruption" of storms Eunice and Arwen earlier this year had highlighted failings with the digital system. Some customers had been unable to dial 999 during storms because their internet was down. Panic and burglar alarms that use landline technology would also cease to function as a result of the switch.

However, customers who have already been forced to make the change will not be able to turn their copper landlines back on.

A spokesman for BT said such a move would "not be feasible". It fears that attempting to move customers back to the older network could cause issues including loss of telephone numbers and service.

Money: Page 3

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RE uk : United Kingdom | eurz : Europe | weurz : Western Europe

PUB Telegraph Media Group Ltd.

AN Document DT00000020220402ei420002i

The Daily Telegraph

SE News
HD **No comeback for landlines, despite BT freezing rollout**
WC 586 words
PD 2 April 2022
SN The Daily Telegraph
SC DT
ED 1; National
PG 3
LA English
CY The Daily Telegraph © 2022. Telegraph Media Group Ltd.
LP

BT has ruled out reinstating landlines in millions of homes, despite halting the rollout of new digital phones after a wave of customer complaints.

The telecoms giant admitted the switchover had been made "too early" and the firm had "underestimated the impact" on homeowners. On Tuesday, BT paused its plans to replace copper landlines with a "fibre optic" inter net-based service by 2025, following a Daily Telegraph campaign.

TD

The company apologised and said it had not fully accounted for the consequences, such as customers being unable to dial 999 due to power cuts during Storms Eunice and Arwen. There were also issues with health pendants and burglar alarms, which use copper technology. However, BT said it would not go back and reinstate landlines in the two million homes already using the digital system.

A spokesman said: "It is not feasible to move customers back. We're working hard to make sure those with concerns are provided with short-term solutions, such as battery back-up units or mobile handsets."

However, many users want the old technology reinstated until BT irons out the issues with the new system.

James Trask, 49, from Hertford shire, said he would "love" to have his old line back after he was moved onto a broadband one at the end of last year.

He said: "The only reason we conceded to losing our old landline was because BT promised we would have a battery back-up to keep going during a power cut. We have still not received one," he said. "We were misled. We live in an area with poor mobile signal and have elderly and vulnerable people that we need to keep in touch with."

Alison Thompson, a 70-year-old farmer from Anglesey in North Wales, said she was ecstatic that BT had stopped forcing the flawed system onto other households. Her landline was replaced in June last year. She said the firm must help those already using the new system, since BT has now admitted there were flaws in the design.

"Option number one would be for BT to reinstate the old line. This would be the best option for people with genuine difficulties in staying connected," she said. Ms Thompson's mobile signal is patchy and she needs a reliable landline to call the vet during lambing season.

Ivor Coleman, 65, from Goring-on-Thames, Oxfordshire, was one of the first to write to this newspaper with concerns over BT's digital rollout.

He said: "When I wrote that first letter, during Storm Eunice, I thought it was a big thing for BT to ditch such a fundamental capability that has been relied on throughout our lifetimes, seemingly without proper consideration of the consequences."

It was "truly heartening" to see BT's "climbdown", he said, but added: "BT's halt in the switch-off has come too late for me. Our phone was moved to broadband soon after I first wrote. To be fair, the

change has been straightforward and works well so far. Crucially though, of course, it will not be so if we have a power cut."

BT said it would ensure there was a suitable safety net in place before it continued with the project.

The BT spokesman added: "Customers who need phone lines with inbuilt power resiliency will receive them when they are ready.

"Customers should contact us to raise any concerns and we can find a solution that works for them."

Harry Brennan

CO btcom : BT Group PLC
IN i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i79021 : Wired Telecommunications Services
NS gblac : Blackouts | gcat : Political/General News | gdis : Disasters/Accidents | gmmdis :
Accidents/Man-made Disasters
RE uk : United Kingdom | eurz : Europe | weurz : Western Europe
PUB Telegraph Media Group Ltd.
AN Document DT00000020220402ei420000u

HD BT deals: This broadband and TV offer is INCREDIBLE

BY MaxF

WC 437 words

PD 1 April 2022

SN Expert Reviews

SC EXPRW

LA English

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LP

This BT deal is bursting at the seams: not only do you get a vast amount of TV, including Netflix and the main Sky channels, and 73Mbps/sec broadband for £38/mth, but also a £100 gift card that you can spend more or less anywhere online. This plan, Entertainment + **Fibre 2**, usually costs £49/mth, which means you're getting a stunning saving of £264 too. And, if that wasn't enough, BT is also waiving the normal £30 setup fee.

In short, BT broadband and TV deals don't get much better than this. However, as always with discounts this delicious, make sure you sign up as soon as possible because it won't last forever.

TD

[Buy now from BT](#)

This package is a cornucopia of content: as well as the standard Freeview channels and AMC (which is exclusive to BT customers in the UK), you're getting a Netflix basic plan, Sky Atlantic, Sky Max, Sky Showcase, Sky Witness, Sky Crime, Sky Comedy, Sky Arts, Sky Documentaries, Comedy Central, Syfy, National Geographic, Cartoon Network and many more. And you'll never miss a moment of the action because the BT TV box has room for up to 600 hours of recordings.

Can't find something to watch on live TV? This jaw-dropping deal also gives you access to more than 300 boxsets, including must-watch programmes such as Succession, Game of Thrones, Euphoria, The Sopranos and The Office (US). You'll also get six free months of BritBox, which is a one-stop shop for classic UK telly.

Meanwhile, BT's Fibre 2 broadband provides a download speed of up to 73Mbps/sec, with a guaranteed minimum of 53Mbps/sec. That's easily enough to stream, game and download files on multiple devices at the same time. In [our latest, four-star review](#) of BT's broadband service, we praised the company's improving reliability and lower prices, while highlighting that it lags slightly behind on customer support.

[Buy now from BT](#)

That said, there's no denying that this is an astonishing BT deal. The gigantic saving of £264 would have been eye-catching enough, but the £100 gift card to spend anywhere online that accepts Mastercard makes this an unmissable offer. Once again, make sure to snap it up soon as it's time-limited.

And, if it's put you in a bargain-hunting mood, why not head over to our roundup of all of BT's current deals? Or maybe our list of the best broadband and TV bundles?

CO btcom : BT Group PLC

IN i7902 : Telecommunication Services | iwrlssl : Wireless Area Network Technology | i3302 : Computers/Consumer Electronics | i3303 : Networking | itech : Technology | i79021 : Wired Telecommunications Services

NS ccat : Corporate/Industrial News | gtvrad : Television/Radio | gcat : Political/General News | gent : Arts/Entertainment

RE uk : United Kingdom | eurz : Europe | weurz : Western Europe

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HD I-T- **Payment** made for **connectivity** services are not taxable as royalty in terms of Article 13 of the India-UK DTAA: ITAT

BY TII News Service

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WC 5,680 words

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Date of decision: 23 March 20222022-TII-40-ITAT-DEL-INTLIN THE INCOME TAX APPELLATE TRIBUNALBENCH 'C', NEW DELHIITA No. 9590/Del/2019Assessment Year: 2015-16M/s B T GLOBAL COMMUNICATIONS INDIA PVT LTD11TH FLOOR, NEHRU PLACE, NEW DELHIPAN NO: AAACG1534AVsDEPUTY COMMISSIONER OF INCOME TAX,CIRCLE-4(2), NEW DELHIITA No. 9437/Del/2019Assessment Year: 2015-16DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OF INCOME TAX,CIRCLE-4(2), NEW DELHIVsM/s B T GLOBAL COMMUNICATIONS INDIA PVT LTD11TH FLOOR, NEHRU PLACE, NEW DELHIPAN NO: AAACG1534AN K Billaiya, AM & Anubhav Sharma, JMDate of Hearing: March 15, 2022Date of Decison: March 23, 2022Appellant Rep by: Shri Deepak Chopra, Adv.

TD

Shri Rohan Khare, Adv.Respondent Rep by: Ms Anupama Anand, CIT- DRIncome Tax - Sections section 9(1)(vi), 40(a)(ia) & 195 - India UK DTAA - Article 13(3)Keywords - Network connectivity services - Infrastructure cost - Payment not in nature of royalty.THE assessee is a wholly owned subsidiary of BT Telecom India Private Limited and was engaged in providing network connectivity services. The assessee had obtained International Long Distance, National Long Distance and Internet Service Provider license from the Department of Telecommunication. During assessment proceedings, AO found that the assessee had paid/credited Rs. 383,87,94,524 as network connectivity services to British Telecommunications Pic (BT). This amount had been claimed as infrastructure cost. The AO found that the assessee had entered into an agreement between BT Pic and BT Ltd. for provision of telecommunication services. The AO was of the opinion that the assessee was providing telecommunication services in India by using the telecommunication/networking skill of the British Company BT PLC. The assessee was asked to furnish details of all the payments made to non-residents, alongwith the reasons/nature of transactions for such payments and was also asked to furnish the details of withholding taxes made on such payments, and if no TDS is made, then the reasons to be provided. It was explained by assessee that BT did not have a PE in India, the payment was not in the nature of royalty, payment was not for use of any process and payments were not fee for technical services as technical knowledge etc was not made available. It was further explained that the agreement between BT and the assessee is an agreement for provision of services and not for the use or right to use of any equipment/process or for use of any other similar property. The contention of the assessee did not find any favour with the AO who was of the firm belief that the provisions of Telegraph Laws (Amendment Act, 1961), wherein telegraph has been defined in section 3(1) of the Act, squarely apply and came to the conclusion that it had not been using any apparatus provided by BTPLC was also not acceptable. The AO was of the opinion that the payment for network connectivity services given to BT PLC was royalty. The AO held that the payment given/credited by the assessee to BT Pic for network connectivity services was to be treated as payment of royalty. The assessee was liable for withholding of tax u/s 195 and since the assessee had failed to do so, disallowance of payment u/s 40(a)(ia) of the Act was made to the tune of Rs. 3,83,8794,524, which was upheld by the CIT (A).On appeal, Tribunal held that,Whether payment made for connectivity services are not taxable as royalty in terms of Article 13 of the India-UK DTAA even though service is being provided with the help of scientific equipment and technology - YES : ITAT+ the assessee as a service provider is only concerned with the transfer of telecommunication traffic through availing service from BT without having any knowledge or any manner of access in respect of the equipment being used for these services. Thus, it can be safely concluded that the assessee does not obtain/receive any right to use the networking of BT. The entire basis of the findings of the Assessing Officer/CIT(A)/DR is on the fact that the payment made by the assessee is a royalty for use of equipment of BT ignoring the crucial fact that the said payment is to receive international leg of connectivity service and not right to use any equipment of BT. Once again, refer to the decision of the

Delhi High Court in the case of New Skies Satellite wherein the High Court has relied upon the decision given by it in the case of Asia Satellite 2011-TII-05-HC-DEL-INTL wherein the High Court has held that where the customer does not use equipment or process of equipment itself payment cannot be termed as royalty for use of a process or equipment. The facts of Verizon Communication are totally different in terms of who was providing service and the manner in which was being provided in India. In fact, in the case of Verizon Communication had itself provided some customers premise, equipment for use to its customers in India under the terms of its contract with Indian customers whereas the facts of the case in hand are devoid of such things. In fact, there is no finding by the Assessing Officer/ CIT(A) that any part of BT equipment is located in India or offered by BT for use/operation by the assessee in India. In the case in hand, no equipment was given by FTO to the assessee. The assessee merely delivers the calls using its own network through international connection with FTO which picks up the calls and further transmits at the desired destination by using its own network. The payment made for connectivity services are not taxable as royalty in terms of Article 13 of the India-UK DTAA. No doubt, that service is being provided with the help of scientific equipment and technology. Accordingly, direct the AO to delete the impugned addition. In the result, the appeal of the assessee is allowed. Assessee's appeal allowed/Revenue's appeal dismissed.

ORDER Per: N K Billaiya: The above two captioned cross appeals by the assessee and the Revenue are preferred against the order of the Id. CIT(A)-2, New Delhi dated 27.09.2019 pertaining to Assessment Year 2015-16. Both these appeals were heard together and are disposed of by this common order for the sake of convenience and brevity.

2. We will first address to the appeal of the assessee in ITA No. 9590/DEL/2019. The grievances of the assessee read as under: "The Appellant respectfully submits that on the facts and circumstances of the case and in law, while passing the order under section 250(6) of the Act (hereinafter referred to as 'impugned order'), the Hon'ble Commissioner of Income-tax (Appeals)-2, New Delhi [hereinafter referred to as 'the Hon'ble CIT (A)'] has erred as follows: 1. That on the facts and circumstances of the case and in law, the Hon'ble CIT(A) has erred in upholding the position adopted by the Learned Assessing Officer ('Learned AO') that the network connectivity charges are in the nature of "Royalty" or "Fee for technical services" under the provisions of the Act and the India-United Kingdom Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement ('India-UK DTAA'). 2. That on the facts and circumstances of the case and in law, the Hon'ble CIT(A) has erred in upholding the disallowance of network connectivity charges under section 40(a)(i) of the Act, in the hands of the Appellant. 3. That on the facts and circumstances of the case and in law, the Hon'ble CIT(A) has erred in disregarding the Appellant's submission that the subject payments by the Appellant to BT Pic are in the nature of business income of BT Pic and therefore not taxable in India in absence of Permanent Establishment of BT Pic in India in accordance with Article 5 read with Article 7 of the India-UK DTAA. That the above grounds of appeal are without prejudice to each other. That the Appellant reserves its right to add, alter, amend or withdraw any ground of appeal either before or at the time of hearing of this appeal. 3. The representatives of both the sides were heard at length, the case records carefully perused and with the assistance of the Id. Counsel, we have considered the documentary evidences brought on record in the form of Paper Book in light of Rule 18(6) of ITAT Rules. 4. Briefly stated, the facts of the case are that the assessee is a wholly owned subsidiary of BT Telecom India Private Limited and is engaged in providing network connectivity services. The assessee has obtained International Long Distance, National Long Distance and Internet Service Provider license from the Department of Telecommunication. 5. During the course of scrutiny assessment proceedings and on perusal of Form No. 3CEB, the Assessing Officer found that the assessee has paid/credited Rs. 383,87,94,524/- as network connectivity services to British Telecommunications Pic (BT). This amount has been claimed as infrastructure cost. The Assessing Officer found that the assessee has entered into an agreement between BT Pic and BT Ltd. for provision of telecommunication services. The Assessing Officer was of the opinion that the assessee is providing telecommunication services in India by using the telecommunication/ networking skill of the British Company BT PLC. 6. The assessee was asked to furnish details of all the payments made to non-residents, alongwith the reasons/nature of transactions for such payments and was also asked to furnish the details of withholding taxes made on such payments, and if no TDS is made, then the reasons to be provided. 7. The assessee filed detailed reply dated 10.12.2018 wherein it has been submitted that tax has not been withheld on payment for network connectivity services to BT. It was explained that BT does not have a PE in India, the payment is not in the nature of royalty, payment is not for use of any process and payments are not fee for technical services as technical knowledge etc was not made available. 8. It was further explained that the agreement between BT and the assessee is an agreement for provision of services and not for the use or right to use of any equipment /process or for use of any other similar property. 9. The contention of the assessee did not find any favour with the Assessing Officer who was of the firm belief that the provisions of Telegraph Laws (Amendment Act, 1961), wherein telegraph has been defined in section 3(1) of the said Act, squarely apply and came to the conclusion that it has not been using any apparatus provided by BT PLC is also not acceptable. 10. Referring to the amendment brought in the provisions of section 195 by introduction of Explanation 2, the Assessing Officer was of the opinion that withholding of tax should be done irrespective of the fact that whether the non-resident has any business connections/presence in India or not. 11. Referring to Article 13(3) of the India UK DTAA, the Assessing Officer was of the opinion that the payment for network connectivity services given to BT PLC is royalty. 12. Placing strong reliance on the judgment of the Hon'ble Madras High Court in the case of Verizon Communications, Singapore Pte Ltd 361 ITR 575, the Assessing Officer came to the conclusion that the payment given/credited by the assessee to BT Pic for

network connectivity services is to be treated as payment of royalty within the meaning of clause (iii) of Explanation 2 to section 9(1)(vi) of the Act and, therefore, the assessee was liable for withholding of tax u/s 195 of the Act and since the assessee has failed to do so, disallowance of payment u/s 40(a)(ia) of the Act was made to the tune of Rs. 3,83,87,94,524/-, which was upheld by the Id. CIT(A).13. A perusal of the TSA Agreement shows that the assessee had installed its own equipment in India for providing necessary bandwidth services to its Indian customers. We find that it is only to achieve the foreign leg of the connectivity that the telecom services of the non-resident service provider were procured. We do not find any merit in this contention of the Id. DR that the assessee does not have any presence/equipment in India. Article 3.2(b) of the TSA reads as under: "With respect to all customers, OpCo undertakes to develop, operate and maintain at its cost such telecommunications network inside the territory as is reasonably required to provide tele-communication services."14. TSA clearly mentions that the assessee is required to develop, operate and maintain all telecommunication network within India. We find that there is no equipment of non-resident service provider being in India. We are of the considered view that there is a difference between an agreement that gives "Right to use equipment" and an agreement which involves provisions of services through use of equipment by service provider.15. Our view is fortified by the decision of the Hon'ble Jurisdiction High Court of Delhi in the case of DIT Vs. New Skies Satellite BV 383 ITR 154 = 2016-TII-06-HC-DEL-INTL.16. The Id. DR has also placed reliance on the judgment of the Hon'ble Madras High Court in the case of Verizon Communications [supra] and at the behest of the Id. DR, the assessee has furnished an undertaking on its letter head that apart from TSA between the assessee and BT, there was no other agreement, technical or otherwise for provision of these services.17. The contention of the Id. DR that the decision of the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi in the case of New Skies Satellite [supra] involved the DTAA between India and Netherlands and the definition of royalty is between India and UK DTAA are differently worded does not have any merit, in as much as the decision of the Hon'ble Delhi High Court in case of New Skies Satellite [supra] is a consolidated decision which covers two non-resident parties - one - tax resident of Netherlands and the other - tax resident of Thailand and, therefore, the decision deals with the definition of royalty provided for in DTAA between India and Netherlands and India Thailand and definition of Royalty as per India Thailand DTAA is same as definition in India UK DTAA. Therefore, it cannot be said that the decision of the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi in the case of New Skies [supra] is not applicable on the facts of the case in hand.18. We further find that the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi in the case of New Skies Satellite [supra] has categorically held that the amendments made in domestic law are not effective retrospectively. The definition of the term 'Royalty under the DTAA which has now been affirmed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in the case of Engineering Analysis Center of Excellence Pvt Ltd. [2021] 432 ITR 471 = 2021-TII-02-SC-INTL-LB wherein it has been held by the Hon'ble Supreme Court that the amendments in the domestic law cannot be read into treaties, unless DTAA's are amended by way of bilateral negotiations.19. Next proposition made by the Id. DR is that the case in hand is a case of equipment royalty.20. For this, we would like to refer to the terms of Article 13 of the India-UK DTAA wherein royalty has been defined as under: "13(3) payments of any kind received as a consideration for the use of, or the right to use, any copyright of a literary, artistic or scientific work, including cinematography films or work on films, tape or other means of reproduction for use in connection with radio or television broadcasting, any patent, trade mark, design or model, plan, secret formula or process, or for information concerning industrial, commercial or scientific experience; and payments of any kind received as consideration for the use of, or the right to use, any industrial, commercial or scientific equipment, other than income derived by an enterprise of a Contracting State from the operation of ships or aircraft in international traffic."21. For this contention of the Id. DR, we have to see whether the assessee had any right to use equipment for it to be encompassed under the definition of Royalty under Article 13 [supra]. We have elsewhere referred to clause 3.2(b) of the TSA which provides that equipment in India are owned by the assessee only and BT does not own any equipment in India.22. We further find that in Article 1A of the TSA, no such right has been provided and all entities are directed to maintain their own equipment. The relevant portion of Article 1A of the TSA reads as under: "Telecommunications services means any transmission, emission, reception of signs, signals, writing, images and sounds or intelligence of any nature by wire, radio, optical, satellite or any other electromagnetic system including but not limited to transmission, switching, applications, voice, internet protocol and data services. These services will be provided through the ownership, management and/or operation of till network tiers (local access, national and international network) and network based application data centres, second and third level service support/ network capacity planning and management of capacity inventory; network build, provide, assure and operate; management of cable and satellite investments, provision of specialist technical services to BT Group and third parties; ownership and management of technical property and /facilities that support the provision of voice and/or data transmission and tiny other service which are ancillary to the provision of such telecommunication services "23. It can be seen from the above that all the parties to the agreement are owners who manage and operate their own equipment for provision of telecommunication services.24. It would be pertinent to understand the service module by which it can be seen that the argument between the assessee and BT is in the nature of service contract pursuant to which BT is responsible for provision of network connectivity service for transmission of telecommunication services outside India in consideration for appropriate service charges.25. A closer look at the business module shows that network of BT including the related equipment is used by BT. Thus, for provision of network connectivity services of the assessee in relation to its subscribers and no access/control whatsoever in relation to such network, any

equipment is provided to the assessee.²⁶ If we consider the business module in a practical aspect, then we would know that there may be multiple routes by way of any given transmission of telecom traffic can reach the desired destination and the assessee has no knowledge of the equipment being used for provision of the service.²⁷ For example, if a person is making an international call from India to a resident of UK, then the service provider of that person does not know through which service provider call reaches the desired destination, as service provider in India has no knowledge of the equipment being used for provision of the service.²⁸ Considering the facts of the case in hand, the assessee as a service provider is only concerned with the transfer of telecommunication traffic through availing service from BT without having any knowledge or any manner of access in respect of the equipment being used for these services. Thus, it can be safely concluded that the assessee does not obtain/receive any right to use the networking of BT.²⁹ The entire basis of the findings of the Assessing Officer/Id. CIT(A)/Id. DR is on the fact that the payment made by the assessee is a royalty for use of equipment of BT ignoring the crucial fact that the said payment is to receive international leg of connectivity service and not right to use any equipment of BT.³⁰ Once again, we have to refer to the decision of the Hon'ble Delhi High Court in the case of New Skies Satellite [supra] wherein the Hon'ble High Court has relied upon the decision given by it in the case of Asia Satellite 332 ITR 340 = 2011-TII-05-HC-DEL-INTL wherein the Hon'ble High Court has held that where the customer does not use equipment or process of equipment itself payment cannot be termed as royalty for use of a process or equipment.³¹ Basis the decision of the Hon'ble Madras High Court in the case of Verizon Communications [supra], the Assessing Officer/Id. CIT(A) have framed respective orders.³² We have carefully perused the decision of the Hon'ble Madras High Court in the case of Verizon Communications [supra]. We are of the considered view that the facts of Verizon Communication [supra] are totally different in terms of who was providing service and the manner in which was being provided in India.³³ In fact, in the case of Verizon Communication [supra] had itself provided some customers premise, equipment for use to its customers in India under the terms of its contract with Indian customers whereas the facts of the case in hand are devoid of such things. In fact, there is no finding by the Assessing Officer/Id. CIT(A) that any part of BT equipment is located in India or offered by BT for use/operation by the assessee in India.³⁴ The co-ordinate bench in the case of Bharti Airtel 46 CCH 304 has considered the issue on identical facts and has distinguished the decision of the Hon'ble Madras High Court in the case of Verizon Communications [supra]. The relevant findings read as under:³⁵ "18. Further, it would be imperative to mention that the decision of the Hon'ble Madras High Court was distinguished by the co-ordinate bench in the decision of Bharti Airtel Limited v ITO, (2016) 46 CCH 304 (Delhi-Trib) wherein this Hon'ble Tribunal whilst dealing with the issue of Inter-Connect Usage charges (similar to the charges being paid by the Assessee in the case at hand) and whilst correctly following the decisions of the Hon'ble Delhi High Court in New Skies (Supra) held as under:-"³⁶ "64. Recently, the Hon'ble Delhi High Court in the case DIT vs. New Skies Satellite BT "³⁷ "39. It is now essential to decide the second question i.e. whether the assessee in the present case will obtain any relief from the provisions of the DTAA's. Under Article 12 of the Double Tax Avoidance Agreements, the general rule states that whereas the State of Residence shall have the primary right to tax royalties, the Source State shall concurrently have the right to tax the income, to the extent of 15% of the total income. Before the amendment brought about by the Finance Act of 2012, the definition of royalty under the Act and the DTAA's were treated as pari materia. The definitions are reproduced below: Article 12(3), Indo Thai Double Tax Avoidance Agreement: "3. The term "royalties" as used in this article means payments of any kind received as a consideration for the alienation or the use of, or the right to use, any copyright of literary, artistic or scientific work (including cinematograph films, phonographic records and films or tapes for radio or television broadcasting), any patent, trade mark, design or model, plan, secret formula or process, or for the use of, or the right to use industrial, commercial or scientific equipment, or for information concerning industrial, commercial or scientific experience." Article 12(4), Indo Netherlands Double Tax Avoidance Agreement ITA 473/2012, 474/2012, 500/2012 & 244/2014 Page 31"³⁸ "4. The term "royalties" as used in this Article means payments of any kind received as a consideration for the use of, or the right to use, any copyright of literary, artistic or scientific work including cinematograph films, any patent, trade mark, design or model, plan, secret formula or process, or for information concerning industrial, commercial or scientific experience." Section 9(l)(vi), Explanation 2, Income Tax Act, 1961 "(Hi) the use of any patent, invention, model, design, secret formula or process or trade mark or similar property"³⁹ "40. In Asia Satellite Telecommunication the Court, while interpreting the definition of royalty under the Act, placed reliance on the definition in the OECD Model Convention. Similar cases, before the Tax Tribunals through the nation, even while disagreeing on the ultimate import of the definition of the word royalty in the context of data transmission services, systematically and without exception, have treated the two definitions as pari materia. This Court cannot take a different view, nor is inclined to disagree with this approach for it is imperative that definitions that are similarly worded be interpreted similarly in order to avoid incongruity between the two. This is, of course, unless law mandates that they be treated differently. The Finance Act of 2012 has now, as observed earlier, introduced Explanations 4, 5, and 6 to the Section 9(l)(vi). The question is therefore, whether in an attempt to interpret the two definitions uniformly, i.e. the domestic definition and the treaty definition, the amendments will have to be read into the treaty as well. In essence, will the interpretation given to the DTAA's fluctuate with successive Finance Act amendments, whether retrospective or prospective? The Revenue argues that it must, while the Assessee's argue to the contrary. This Court is inclined to uphold the contention of the latter.⁴¹ This Court is of the view that no amendment to the Act, whether retrospective or prospective, can be read in a manner so as to extend in

operation to the terms of an international treaty. In other words, a clarificatory or declaratory amendment, much less one which may seek to overcome an unfavorable judicial interpretation of law, cannot be allowed to have the same retroactive effect in an international instrument effected between two sovereign states prior to such amendment. In the context of international law, while not every attempt to subvert the obligations under the treaty is a breach, it is nevertheless a failure to give effect to the intended trajectory of the treaty. Employing interpretive amendments in domestic law as a means to imply contoured effects in the enforcement of treaties is one such attempt, which falls just short of a breach, but is nevertheless, in the opinion of this Court, indefensible.⁶⁴ After considering the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties, 1969 (VCLT) and the judgments of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of Canada and other precedents, the Hon'ble High Court further has held as under⁶⁰. Consequently, since we have held that the Finance Act, 2012 will not affect Article 12 of the DTAA's, it would follow that the first determinative interpretation given to the word "royalty" in Asia Satellite, when the definitions were in fact *pari materia* (in the absence of any contouring explanations), will continue to hold the field for the purpose of assessment years preceding the Finance Act, 2012 and in all cases which involve a Double Tax Avoidance Agreement, unless the said DTAA's are amended jointly by both parties to incorporate income from data transmission services as partaking of the nature of royalty, or amend the definition in a manner so *supra* note I IIA 473/2012, 474/2012, 500/2012 & 244/2014 Page 50 that such income automatically becomes royalty. It is reiterated that the Court has not returned a finding on whether the amendment is in fact retrospective and applicable to cases preceding the Finance Act of 2012 where there exists no Double Tax Avoidance Agreement.⁶⁵ Thus, respectfully following the jurisdictional High Court decision as well as the judgments of the other Courts, we agree with the submission of the Id. Counsel for the assessee that the amendments to the Finance Acts cannot be read into the DTAA's.³⁵ As mentioned elsewhere, in the case in hand, no equipment is given by FTO to the assessee. The assessee merely delivers the calls using its own network through international connection with FTO which picks up the calls and further transmits at the desired destination by using its own network.³⁶ Considering the facts in totality, we are of the considered opinion that the payment made for connectivity services are not taxable as royalty in terms of Article 13 of the India-UK DTAA. No doubt, that service is being provided with the help of scientific equipment and technology.³⁷ However, that by way itself could not qualify the payment as royalty. We accordingly, direct the Assessing Officer to delete the impugned addition.³⁸ In the result, the appeal of the assessee is allowed.³⁹ The revenue has raised the following grounds of appeal:¹ On the facts and circumstances of the case, whether the Id. CIT(A) was correct in restricting the disallowance u/s 40(a)(ia) of the IT Act, 1961 to the amount 'payable' on the basis of decision of Hon'ble Supreme Court in the case of Victor Shipping Services Pvt. Ltd. and ignoring the fact that the same has been overruled by the Hon'ble Apex Court in the case of M/s Palam Gas Service vs CIT.² On the facts and circumstances of the case, whether the Id. CIT(A) was correct in allowing the deduction U/s 80IA@30% of eligible profits, ignoring the fact that the matter is pending for adjudication before the Hon'ble Delhi High Court in AY 2010-11.³ On the facts and circumstances of the case, whether the Id. CIT(A) was correct in allowing the appeal of the assessee on the ground of disallowance of variable license fee, ignoring the fact that the Department has filed SLPs in the cases of CIT Vs. Bharti Hexacom Limited (2013) 40 taxmann. Com 40(Delhi) = 2013-TIOL-1085-HC-DEL -IT and Vodafone Mobile Services Limited Vs Delhi High Court [ITA No 730 of 2016] on the same issue.⁴ The appellant craves leave for reserving the right to amend, modify, alter, add or forego any ground(s) of appeal at any time before or during the hearing of this appeal.⁴⁰ Since we have allowed the appeal of the assessee in ITA No. 9590/DEL/2019, Ground No. 1 of Revenue's appeal becomes otiose.⁴¹ Ground No. 2 relates to the deduction u/s 80IA of the Act @ 30% of eligible profit.⁴² A perusal of the ground itself shows that the Revenue is in appeal because it has taken the matter before the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi in Assessment Year 2010-11.⁴³ In our considered view, unless the operation of the decision of the co-ordinate bench is stayed by the Hon'ble High Court, the same needs to be followed. We find that in ITA NO. 5354/MUM/2012 order dated 12.09.2018, the co-ordinate bench has held as under:¹⁵ In the backdrop of our aforesaid observations we herein conclude that as the assessee had opted A.Y 2007-08 as the initial assessment year for claim of deduction under Sec. 80IA(2), therefore, it would be entitled for 100% deduction from A.Y 2007-08 to A.Y 2011-12 and thereafter 30% from A.Y 2012-13 to A.Y 2016-17, subject to satisfaction of all other conditions.⁴⁴ Respectfully following the findings of the co-ordinate bench [supra] Ground No. 2 is dismissed.⁴⁵ In so far as Ground No. 3 is concerned, the same has been decided by this Tribunal in ITA No. 7576/DEL/2018 order dated 25.11.2021 = 2021-TII-390-ITAT-DEL-TP in Assessment Year 2014-15. The relevant findings read as under:⁸ We have heard the rival submissions and perused the materials available on record. The issue in the present ground is with respect to the disallowance of license fee paid by the assessee. It is an undisputed fact that agreement pursuant to which the impugned license fee has been paid was entered by the assessee in the year 2006 and assessee has been paying the license fee and in the past the payment of license fee has been accepted by Revenue as no addition by disallowing the same has been made. The addition has been made only in the year under consideration for the reason that Department has filed SLP in the case of Bharti Hexacom Ltd. (supra) & Vodafone Mobile Services Ltd. (supra). Hon'ble Bombay High Court in the case of CIT vs. Forest Development of Maharashtra Ltd. (2017) 84 Taxmann.com 294 (Bom) has observed that even if the principle of *res judicata* does not apply in tax matters yet consistency and certainty of law would require the State to take uniform position and not change their stand in the absence of change in facts and /or law. In the present case, admittedly there is no change in the facts and/or law. In such a situation, merely because

on SLP has been filed by 6 Revenue in some other case on identical facts, cannot be justification for the disallowance of expenditure. We thus find no justification in the order of AO for disallowing the expenditure. We therefore direct the deletion of addition made by AO. Thus the ground of assessee is allowed⁴⁶. Respectfully following the same, Ground No 3 is dismissed.⁴⁷ In the result, the appeal of the assessee in ITA No. 9590/DEL/2019 is allowed and that of the Revenue in ITA No. 9437/DEL/2019 is dismissed.(The order is pronounced in the open court on 23.03.2022)

CO btcom : BT Group PLC

IN i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i79021 : Wired Telecommunications Services

NS gvsup : Judicial Branch | gcrim : Crime/Legal Action | ccat : Corporate/Industrial News | gteva : Tax Fraud | gfraud : Fraud | gpol : Domestic Politics | c13 : Regulation/Government Policy | c133 : Patents | cgymtr : Intellectual Property Rights | cinfpo : Information Technology Policy | cinprp : Industrial Property Rights | gcat : Political/General News | gfinc : Financial Crime | gpir : Politics/International Relations | gvbod : Government Bodies | ncat : Content Types | nfact : Factiva Filters | nfcpx : C&E Executive News Filter | nfcpin : C&E Industry News Filter

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AN Document ATAXIN0020220402ei4100005

HD **BT left customers unable to call 999 as firm admits it made radical changes 'too early'**

BY David Snelling

WC 646 words

PD 1 April 2022

ET 12:32

SN express.co.uk

SC EXCO

LA English

CY Copyright 2022

LP

BT BROADBAND has issued an apology to customers after the telecoms firm left many unable to make calls after changes to its landline access.

BT has suspended the rollout of its new digital voice **platform** after some customers were left unable to make calls to family members and emergency services during recent power cuts. In recent months, BT has been upgrading millions from traditional copper landline connections to its new Voice-over-Internet-Protocol technology, which relies on **fibre** broadband to work.

TD

With homes across the UK slowly getting access to the internet via these new fibre-optic cables, BT doesn't want the pain of maintaining older copper lines at the same time as installing this new technology. Following an upgrade to the latest broadband connection, which unlocks download speeds of up to 1,000Mbps, customers are automatically switched over to phone calls via the internet.

Related articles

However, this update has caused some serious issues, which were highlighted during the recent storms that swept across the UK. The thunderous weather and high winds from Storms Arwen and Eunice left rural areas without power for days, which resulted in home broadband connections staying offline due to home routers needing power to work.

Without a connection to the web, VoIP technology becomes useless. As such, users were left unable to keep in touch with loved ones or make calls to emergency services. During a storm, that's a serious problem.

As you might be aware, older analogue landline systems are powered remotely – so even if the electricity supply is cut off to the home, the line stays live. If you have a wireless landline handset, which can hold its own charge, then you'll be able to continue making calls from the home phone during a storm or power cut.

The severe weather that has ravaged the UK in recent weeks has highlighted the problem with switching to VoIP. And now, BT itself has admitted to customers that it "went too early" with the rollout of the Digital Voice handsets to replace traditional landlines.

The telecoms giant has apologised to those affected and promised that it will work hard on rolling out improved back-up solutions – ready for whenever things go wrong in the future. If you live in an area with good mobile reception and have a charged mobile phone, it's possible to make emergency calls. If there's no mobile reception in your area... or you don't own a mobile phone, you're stuck.

In a statement about the problems that impacted landline owners, CEO of BT Consumer, Mark Allera said: "We underestimated the disruptive impact this upgrade would have on some of our customers. With hindsight we went too early, before many customers – particularly those who rely more heavily on landlines – understood why this change is necessary and what they needed to do.

"We also recognise we have more work to do on getting better back-up solutions in place for when things disrupt the service like storms and power cuts. We got this part of our programme wrong and for that, we're sorry. The huge disruption caused by recent Storms Arwen and Eunice brought this into

sharper focus, when people – including many of our customers in rural areas – needed to get in touch with loved ones during power outages. While many lines were cut in those storms, including the older phone lines, as well as power lines – we do recognise that for some customers, making calls would not have been possible with a broadband-only connection."

Related articles TalkTalk reveals new 4K TV box with Sky Q features for £4 a month Sky broadband users can make serious saving thanks to a simple change BT challenged by supercharged broadband upgrade from Zen

CO btcom : BT Group PLC

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RE uk : United Kingdom | eurz : Europe | weurz : Western Europe

PUB Express Newspapers

AN Document EXCO000020220401ei41001p5

HD BT Group to upgrade Deutsche Post logistics network in 8-year contract
BY By Greg Roxburgh

WC 268 words

PD 31 March 2022

ET 11:45

SN Alliance News UK Corporate

SC ALNUK

LA English

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LP

(Alliance News) - Telecommunications and network provider BT Group PLC on Thursday said it was chosen by Deutsche Post AG's DHL Group to build a secure network as the global logistics company pushes to digitalise its supply chains.

The agreement, which spans eight years, will see London-based BT create a new network "to transform **connectivity**" for Bonn, Germany-based DHL in 27 countries across Europe, including the UK.

TD

Deutsche Post operates under the name DHL Group.

"[The network] will be based on the latest technologies that combine the scale and flexibility of the internet with security and resilience to deliver trusted performance. It will be optimised for the cloud, where Deutsche Post DHL Group increasingly hosts its applications and digital services used by 350,000 employees at 1500 sites across the regions," BT said.

BT will audit DHL's existing network to identify and remove copper cables wherever possible, replacing them with fibre connections, which it said will optimise energy consumption. "Sustainability is a fundamental part of the network transformation," said BT.

DHL Chief Procurement Officer Anna Spinelli said: "Thanks to this new long-term agreement, both companies have strategically committed to work closely together to enable the best performing, flexible and sustainable network, globally."

The financial details of the contract were not disclosed.

BT shares were down 2.5% to 182.55 pence each in London on Thursday, while Deutsche Post's stock was down 0.2% to EUR44.20 each in Frankfurt.

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CT gregroxburgh@alliancenews.com

CO btcom : BT Group PLC | dbpst : Deutsche Post AG | dhl : DHL International B.V.

IN i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i78 : Couriers/Messengers | i7901 : Postal Service | i79021 : Wired Telecommunications Services | icargo : Freight Transport/Logistics | itsp : Transportation/Logistics

NS cscm : Supply Chain | ccat : Corporate/Industrial News

RE uk : United Kingdom | eurz : Europe | weurz : Western Europe

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AN Document ALNUK00020220331ei3v000gy

HD	BT signs new 8-year network services contract with Deutsche Post DHL
WC	125 words
PD	31 March 2022
SN	Telecompaper Europe
SC	TELEUR
LA	English
CY	Copyright 2022 Telecompaper. All Rights Reserved.
LP	<p>BT has won a new 8-year contract with global logistics company Deutsche Post DHL Group to build a new secure network across 27 European countries, including the UK.</p> <p>This extends a long-term relationship between the two companies. The new network will help DPDHL Group digitalise supply chains in a sustainable manner. It will be optimised for the cloud, where it is increasingly hosting applications and digital services used by its 350,000 employees across 1,500 sites.</p>
TD	<p>The network upgrade will have a key focus on sustainability, with BT conducting an audit of the group's existing network to identify and remove copper cables where possible, and replace them with more energy-efficient fibre connections.</p>
CO	dbpst : Deutsche Post AG btcom : BT Group PLC dhl : DHL International B.V.
IN	i7902 : Telecommunication Services i78 : Couriers/Messengers i7901 : Postal Service i79021 : Wired Telecommunications Services icargo : Freight Transport/Logistics itsp : Transportation/Logistics
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PUB	Telecompaper BV
AN	Document TELEUR0020220331ei3v0002w

HD **BT makes U-turn in major change to landlines after County Durham residents hit out**

BY Patrick Gouldsbrough

WC 896 words

PD 31 March 2022

SN The Northern Echo

SC NRCO

LA English

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LP

BT has been forced into a U-turn to axe all traditional landline **devices** after numerous objections from rural communities, including in County Durham, over the 'lifesaving' ability of the pieces of technology – with the company admitting "we got this wrong".

At the end of last year, the telecoms giant announced 'changeover' plans to make landline **devices** obsolete by 2025, in favour of online-enabled phones – under its 'Digital Voice' scheme.

TD

Under the proposals, the new phones would have needed to be connected to the internet and need to be powered by electricity mains.

Read more: These County Durham residents aren't happy about BT axing landlines

Despite the company making the bold claims for digital devices, the plans to introduce the roll-out in just under three years has been 'paused' after coming in for criticism from age charities, rural organisations, and a range of other community groups.

Announcing the cessation of the project, a BT spokesperson said: "Further to recent feedback, we've taken the decision to pause the major rollout of our Digital Voice programme.

"It's clear from what some customers are telling us that we underestimated the impact this technology upgrade would have on certain customer groups.

"We got it wrong by going too early, and for this we're sorry. We'll aim to restart the programme, once we're more confident that the right products and solutions are in place that will provide more resilient connectivity.

The spokesperson continued: "We are sorry for the inconvenience and concern caused to date by this upgrade.

"The recent storms, particularly Arwen and Eunice, certainly didn't help but really our mistake was to start the mass rollout of Digital Voice before our customers knew why it was coming and, critically, before we had the right products in market.

"We will resume the rollout once we've got the right products and solutions with in-built power resiliency ready and in-market to suit customer needs. (Probably later this year or early next.)

"For clarity, this is a temporary pause; we're not stopping the programme altogether. The whole industry, not just BT, needs to make the shift to digital because the old analogue technology that we've all been using for the last 30-40 years is fast becoming obsolete."

In County Durham, the vital requirement for a landline phone has been made over the last two years, including during the pandemic and several storms that have battered the region.

Peter Stephenson, from Bishop Auckland, was thrust into an unimaginable situation in November last year when his wife, Heather, suffered a heart attack at home, which tragically coordinated with the power outages that hit 240,000 homes in the North East.

With his electricity turned off and a small generator providing a little comfort to Mr Stephenson, both his mobile and internet services were disabled during his 'time of need'.

The Bishop Auckland resident turned to his landline and managed to call the emergency services on the device, who talked him through CPR.

After eight minutes of CPR, Peter's wife started breathing again, shortly followed by the first paramedic.

Sadly, Heather didn't make it through the treatment and died of brain damage during the seizure.

However, Mr Stephenson has now said that the landline acted as a "comfort" that he wouldn't have had if BT continues with the switch to digital phones.

He said: "Without the resilience of the BT landline system. I would have been entirely alone and not had the support of emergency services. I urge BT to take this issue seriously and as a matter of urgency.

"Having the landline allowed palliative care and my family to touch and hold her hands as she passed."

Alongside the issues raised by residents, the Country Land and Business Association (CLA) were among many agencies that strongly objected to BT's 'Digital Voice' roll-out.

Following BT's U-turn, the CLA has now praised the move from the telecoms company.

Mark Tufnell, President of the Country Land and Business Association, said: "We are pleased that BT has listened to our calls to scrap plans to remove traditional landlines from homes and businesses. With many areas still struggling to receive basic mobile and internet connectivity, landlines continue to be a lifeline for many people in isolated communities.

"The answer to this is simple. If BT wants to scrap landlines in the long term, it needs to ensure every single part of the country is fully connected. Sadly, this aspiration feels a long way away for many rural communities.

"We call on BT to redouble their efforts to ensure full coverage for the nation, so that the social and economic benefits of modern technology can be felt in every village and every household."

Keep up to date with all the latest news on our website, or follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

You can also follow our dedicated County Durham Facebook page for all the latest in the area by clicking [here](#).

For all the top news updates from right across the region straight to your inbox, sign up to our newsletter [here](#).

Have you got a story for us? Contact our newsdesk on newsdesk@nne.co.uk or contact 01325 505054

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NS ccat : Corporate/Industrial News

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PUB Newsquest Media Group

AN Document NRCO000020220331ei3v0005z

SE In Your Area,Lanarkshire Live
HD **East Kilbride MSP gets up to speed with broadband at Holyrood drop-in session**

BY By Nicola Findlay

WC 402 words

PD 30 March 2022

ET 20:50

SN dailyrecord.co.uk

SC DRECRONL

LA English

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LP

Collette Stevenson met engineers and apprentices from Openreach to discuss the roll out of full-fibre broadband.

Collette Stevenson got up to speed with broadband at a drop-in session at the Scottish Parliament.

TD

The East Kilbride MSP met engineers and apprentices from Openreach to discuss the roll out of full-fibre broadband and the economic benefits fast, reliable connectivity is bringing to Scotland during a session at Holyrood.

There the MSP was updated on work being done to upgrade the country's broadband network - with a major upgrade about to start in East Kilbride - and also met apprentices Hayley Goldthorpe and Jack Cotton to hear first-hand about their experiences.

Openreach recently announced it will create and fill around 500 more Scottish jobs during 2020 - including around 390 apprenticeships - as it continues to invest billions of pounds into its UK broadband network, people and training.

Ms Stevenson told Lanarkshire Live: "Reliable connectivity is a hugely important feature of life in modern Scotland and a necessity for people living and working in East Kilbride.

"Openreach engineers and apprentices are working tirelessly to roll out full fibre broadband to more communities each week.

"The event in parliament was a great opportunity to quiz management about the priorities ahead and the challenges in more complex areas of build - and discuss how policy changes could help.

South Lanarkshire Tory election candidate quits race after 'vicious' online threats

"It was great to learn more about opportunities that can be unlocked, especially for remote and rural communities, by ultra-reliable full fibre broadband."

At the beginning of the year Openreach announced that more than half a million Scottish homes and businesses can connect to its new gigabit-capable, full fibre network.

Sixteen towns and villages across South Lanarkshire are included in its plans to reach 25m premises with the technology by the end of 2026.

They include East Kilbride, where 4700 homes and businesses can already connect and work is about to start on a major upgrade, as well as places like Lanark, Carstairs, Rutherglen and Lesmahagow.

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Lanarkshire bus services could face disruption as strike action looms

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RE scot : Scotland | uk : United Kingdom | eurz : Europe | weurz : Western Europe

PUB Reach Plc

AN Document DRECRONL20220330ei3u004jx

HD Get fastest UK broadband at half the cost of Virgin Media thanks to Community **Fibre** deal

BY David Snelling

WC 540 words

PD 30 March 2022

ET 10:36

SN express.co.uk

SC EXCO

LA English

CY Copyright 2022

LP

FANCY super fast speeds but don't want to pay super high prices? Community **Fibre** is now offering blisteringly quick downloads at half the price of Virgin Media.

This article contains affiliate links, we may receive a commission on any sales we generate from it.
[Learn more](#)

TD

Beaming blisteringly quick downloads into your home just got a whole lot cheaper. That's all thanks to a new deal from UK Internet Service Provider Community Fibre which is offering its speedy 1,000Mbps service for just £30 per month. To put that price into some perspective, Virgin Media's Gig1 option - which also offers speeds of around 1,000Mbps - currently costs £62 per month. That cost makes Gig1 over twice the price of Community Fibre.

Anyone signing up to 1,000Mbps speeds will be able whizz a full HD movie to their TV in under 40 seconds - that's around 13 times faster than the current UK average. Along with those rapid downloads, Community Fibre customers also get a unlimited downloads and access to a Wi-Fi 6 router which offer faster and more reliable speeds.

There's also free installation and no upfront fee to pay. Of course, like most things in life, there is a catch.

Community Fibre is currently only available in around one million homes which is significantly less than the 15 million properties that can get Virgin's Gig1 service.

YOU CAN CHECK IF YOUR HOME IS CONNECTED [HERE](#)

If you're lucky enough to have Community Fibre in your street, here are some of the best offers available right now.

Community Fibre 75Mbps - NOW £20 - WAS £22.50

INCLUDES: 75Mbps downloads • Free installation • Free Linksys WiFi router

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Community Fibre 200Mbps - NOW £22.50 - WAS £27.50

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Community Fibre 1000Mbps - NOW £30 - WAS £49

INCLUDES: 1Gbps downloads • Free installation • Free Linksys WiFi router

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Community Fibre 3000Mbps - NOW £89 - WAS £99

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Not everyone needs a blisteringly quick internet connection so it's worth checking your needs before signing up for a long contract. For example, a standard 50Mbps connection should be just fine if you simply browse the web and send a few emails. However, start downloading movies and PS5 games and faster speeds become much more vital. It's also important to boost your connection if you have a busy house that's full of people using the internet at the same time as the more devices online, the slower things can get.

Here's how long it takes to download a full HD movie using different speeds:

Broadband speed • 60Mbps - Download time • 12 minutes

Broadband speed • 100Mbps - Download time • 6 minutes

Broadband speed • 300Mbps - Download time • 2 minutes

Broadband speed • 300Mbps - Download time • 1 minute

Broadband speed • 1Gbps - Download time • 30 seconds

Related articles Sky offers 'best ever' price for TV and broadband but deal ends soon Virgin Media offers customers FREE Google smart speakers worth £220 BT challenged by supercharged broadband upgrade from Zen

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PUB Express Newspapers

AN Document EXCO000020220330ei3u002s3

HD BT and Virgin Media challenged by supercharged broadband upgrade from Zen**BY** David Snelling**WC** 809 words**PD** 30 March 2022**ET** 08:09**SN** express.co.uk**SC** EXCO**LA** English**CY** Copyright 2022**LP**

BT AND Virgin Media might offer some of the fastest speeds in the UK but these are firms are about to be challenged by Zen thanks to the rollout of more **fibre** to homes.

This article contains affiliate links, we may receive a commission on any sales we generate from it. [Learn more](#)

TD

BT and Virgin Media are about to face some stiff competition with the UK's "best" broadband supplier announcing some major news. Zen Internet, which was recently crowned the top Internet Service Provider by the experts at Which?, has just revealed plans to boost speeds in millions of homes across the UK,

This update is all thanks to its partnership with CityFibre which is slowly rolling its speedy full-fibre network out across the country. If you weren't already aware, millions of homes are still connected to the web via ageing copper cables which can't keep pace with the growing needs of modern life. Full Fibre to the Premises solves this problem by bringing blisteringly quick internet right through the walls.

Zen began its initial partnership with CityFibre back in 2020 with it offering super fast downloads in 30 locations across the UK.

However, the expanded agreement will now enable Zen to boost this to around 285 cities, towns and locations by 2025.

With so much of the UK still unable to get fast speeds this could be exactly what millions have been waiting for and it will also give BT's Openreach and Virgin Media some vital competition.

Once the CityFibre upgrade arrives in homes, Zen is promising that it will be able to pump broadband into homes at speeds of around 900Mbps - that's around 12 times faster than the current UK average. At that rate you'd be able to download a full HD movie in under 40 seconds.

WHAT BROADBAND SPEEDS DO YOU NEED? Not everyone needs a blisteringly quick internet connection. A standard 50Mbps connection should be just fine if you simply browse the web and send a few emails. However, start downloading movies and PS5 games and faster speeds become much more vital. It's also important to boost your connection if you have a busy house that's full of people using the internet at the same time as the more devices online, the slower things can get.

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Broadband speed • 300Mbps - Download time • 2 minutes

Broadband speed • 300Mbps - Download time • 1 minute

Broadband speed • 1Gbps - Download time • 30 seconds

Speaking about the news Paul Stobart, Chief Executive Officer at Zen, said: "We're delighted to be working with CityFibre on delivering full fibre broadband to even more UK homes up and down the country. We're seeing great consumer demand and interest in our early cities and are excited to ensure more homes can access an award-winning full fibre service at what is a pivotal time for connectivity in the home. By 2030 everyone will have made the switch and we are excited about the role Zen plays as an ultrafast pioneer to be a key enabler of early adoption."

So how do Zens rivals compare when it comes to the rollout of faster fibre?

Virgin Media announced last year that it now offers its superfast speeds in over 15 million homes with customers able to sign up for Gig1 broadband. This premium offering Virgin features downloads at speeds of over 1,000Mbps making it one of the fastest on the market.

BT -owned Openreach is also investing heavily in its infrastructure with the company recently revealing that it's now trying to connect up to four million homes a year to quicker broadband.

BT also says that it hopes to have 20m to 25 million properties hooked up to speedy full fibre by December 2026.

"BT is already building more full fibre broadband to homes and businesses than anyone else in the UK. Today we are increasing our FTTP target from 20 million to 25 million homes and businesses to deliver further value to our shareholders and support the Government's full fibre ambitions," said Philip Jansen , Chief Executive, BT Group .

"This has three massive benefits: it allows us to go faster, beefing up our capacity to build fibre to households and businesses; it allows us to go further, getting fibre to more people including in rural communities, and; it will help fuel UK economic recovery, with better connectivity and up to 7,000 new jobs."

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HD BT Group plc - **Cybersecurity**: How BT is helping employees land a dream job they never..

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WC 753 words

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Cybersecurity: How BT is helping employees land a dream job they never..

TD

By Kevin Brown, Managing Director, Security at BT

The past few years have created new ways of working and doing business. A time of significant change has caused many to think about whether their current career path is right for them long-term.

According to research we conducted, 69% of people would reskill and work in a different field if given the opportunity. The number of workers looking to switch careers in the "great resignation" is an unprecedented opportunity to tackle the cyber skills gap.

What's clear from our research, though, is the cyber security industry itself is still facing an uphill battle around perceptions and awareness. Before being told more about the sector, only 4% of UK adults would consider cyber as an alternative industry if they were to retrain. This reduced to as little as 1% in females.

We recently launched a first-of-a-kind 16-week reskilling programme, in collaboration with [CAPSLOCK](#), to tackle the shortfall of people with cyber security skills and continue our commitment to investing in our people. The initiative will see people across various areas of the BT business retrained and placed into crucial cyber security roles, all while keeping their pay cheque.

The scheme is all about opening doors for those who might not have seen an obvious way into a security career, while also challenging many of the perceptions and barriers that are preventing people from considering careers in cyber security.

Perceived barriers to entry in cyber security

So, what's the extent of the problem? Well, the cyber security industry is still perceived as opaque and inaccessible to many. When asked why they didn't see cyber security as a viable career path, nearly two thirds (38%) of people said they didn't know enough about the sector, while 32% said cyber sounded too technical for them, and a quarter (25%) cited age as a potential barrier. When asked to imagine a cyber security professional, 39% of people imagined someone with a bachelor's degree or above.

The reality is that our industry requires a broad array of skills and there are a wealth of different roles in the industry, many of which rely on transferable skills that many people already possess. Those with the right attitude and determination can thrive in the cyber security industry, irrespective of their experience, education or age.

Insurmountable barriers to reskilling

The sector clearly has a way to go in addressing misconceptions, but there are also more general concerns about switching careers. Almost half (42%) of the UK's workforce feel unable to leave their current career path.

Amongst those who feel barriers to switching careers are too great, over a third (31%) believe they are too old to learn new skills, 28% say the uncertainty of getting a foot in the door of a new industry is their biggest worry and 24% said they said they can't afford to take time off to get the necessary accreditations for their dream role.

While addressing misperceptions of the cyber security industry is the right step in encouraging more people to consider the profession, we must also offer pragmatic routes into the industry. Reskilling programmes are a key part of how organisations can retain and grow talent, by identifying individuals with relevant interests, potential, and transferable skills and supporting them to reach their full potential.

Our recently announced reskilling opportunity is just one example of how we're committed to the development of our own people's careers. Outside of BT, we're also proud to support the public through our Skills for Tomorrow programme. Since the start of the pandemic, our Work Ready [webinars](#) have boosted digital and employability skills, covering topics such as CVs and job interviews.

For more information on our reskilling programme in collaboration with CAPSLOCK, visit [here](#)

For more information on careers at BT Security, visit our [careers page](#)

* [Original Link](#)

Disclaimer

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CO btcom : BT Group PLC
IN i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i79021 : Wired Telecommunications Services
NS c25 : Information Technology | npress : Press Releases | ccat : Corporate/Industrial News | ncat : Content Types
RE uk : United Kingdom | eurz : Europe | weurz : Western Europe
PUB PUBT Inc
AN Document LCDVP00020220330ei3u009yf

HD EE deals: Get six months of FREE Apple Music with this spectacular SIM-only offer

BY MaxF

WC 521 words

PD 28 March 2022

SN Expert Reviews

SC EXPRW

LA English

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LP

Hold onto your bargain-hunting hat because this is quite the EE deal: if you sign up for a 160GB SIM-only plan for £20/mth, you'll also get six months of complimentary Apple Music, Apple TV+, Apple Arcade and BritBox. That means you'll be able to listen, watch and play to your heart's **content**, with no pressure to continue the subscriptions once the free period has ended – you can cancel them at any time. If you install all four of the apps, your overall savings will be a gigantic £156.

TD

So what are you actually getting? Well, Apple Music gives you access to tunes from the biggest artists on the planet, as well as Apple Music Radio. Meanwhile, Apple TV+ contains series such as Ted Lasso, The Morning Show, Foundation and Tehran, as well as films including The Tragedy of Macbeth, Finch, Cherry and Coda, which picked up this year's Academy Award for Best Picture. As you might have guessed, Apple Arcade is a compendium of addictive games that you can play on a range of Apple devices, while BritBox gives you access to UK TV favourites old and new.

If that wasn't enough, EE offers the fastest 5G and 4G speeds, according to [Opensignal's latest round of tests](#), making this the perfect deal if you want to chomp through content at the highest quality settings. As always with offers this outstanding, get in there quickly because it won't last forever.

[Buy now from EE](#)

In our most recent review of the mobile network, we awarded EE four stars and a coveted Recommended award for its lightning-quick 5G and 4G speeds, impressive customer satisfaction scores and wide coverage. Our only question mark was over its value for money, but there's no denying that this is a peach of a deal.

And, [for an extra £5/mth, you can make it even sweeter](#). As with the £20/mth SIM-only plan, you'll get 160GB of data on a two-year contract. However, instead of six months of one of the services above, you'll get one of EE's Smart Benefits: 24 months of Apple Music, Netflix or BT Sport Ultimate, which means you won't miss a moment of Champions League action. Alternatively, you could pick one of EE's homemade benefits: the Roam Abroad Pass, which lets you use your data allowance in the US and Australia for no extra charge, and the Video Data Pass, which means you won't use any data while watching videos.

[Buy now from EE](#)

The £20/mth SIM-only plan is still our pick of the deals, though, offering an unbeatable, six-month cornucopia of content for the money. Once again, take advantage of it as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.

And, if this deal has put you in a money-saving mood, why not check out our dedicated roundup of EE deals? Or perhaps our list of the most eye-catching SIM-only offers?

CO applc : Apple Inc. | unelc : EE Ltd. | btcom : BT Group PLC

IN imsoft : Streaming Services | idistr : Media Content Distribution | iint : Online Service Providers | imed : Media/Entertainment | itech : Technology | i3302 : Computers/Consumer Electronics | i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i79022 : Wireless Telecommunications Services

NS gmusic : Music | gcat : Political/General News | gent : Arts/Entertainment

RE uk : United Kingdom | eurz : Europe | weurz : Western Europe
PUB Dennis Publishing Limited
AN Document EXPRW00020220328ei3s0002u

The Daily Telegraph

SE News
HD Alarmed householders forced to update security **devices** after analogue switch-off
BY Harry Brennan
WC 412 words
PD 26 March 2022
SN The Daily Telegraph
SC DT
ED 1; National
PG 13
LA English
CY The Daily Telegraph © 2022. Telegraph Media Group Ltd.

LP

OLDER burglar alarms will stop working when BT replaces copper landlines with broadband technology.

ADT, one of Britain's oldest and biggest home security firms, and Ofcom, the telecoms watchdog, confirmed many analogue alarms would have to be replaced or upgraded.

TD

Alarms that use internet and mobile technology will continue to work, but older models that use landlines to send signals to monitoring stations or police will become redundant, with owners facing bills of more than £500 to replace them.

Alarm firm Yale said it was aware of the issue and was carrying out tests to see whether its systems would work on BT's new network, while rival Verisure said it was aware the change would impact landline alarms but confirmed that its systems would still function.

Experts said elderly householders may be targeted by criminal gangs and that non-functioning alarms may invalidate home insurance policies.

John Hayward Cripps, head of Neighbourhood Watch, said he was "extremely concerned". "BT's rollout and the side-effects it is having have been poorly communicated and many people are simply unaware they will be left exposed in this way," he said.

All homes and businesses will be moved to the new system by 2025, when landlines will cease to exist. About 1.5 million BT customers have lost their landlines to date.

As revealed in today's Telegraph Money, some BT customers have resorted to spending hundreds to install back-up generators. One ADT customer said they had been quoted £500 to upgrade analogue alarm. Michael Fraser, a burglar-turned security consultant and television presenter, said homeowners, particularly the elderly, were being left in a vulnerable position by the changeover.

Almost 260,000 burglaries were recorded in 2020, according to the Office for National Statistics. Mr Fraser said they would increase as criminals could identify homes equipped with analogue alarms that no longer functioned.

"Criminals can use property websites and Google Street View to scout potential targets and assess the value of possessions in homes," he said.

The Association of British Insurers warned that as insurers could deny burglary claims if alarms no longer worked, ADT, Yale and BT said they would inform affected customers of the dangers and the necessary upgrades that need to be completed.

Money: Page 3

'Criminals will be able to identify homes with alarms that no longer function by using Google Street View'

CO ofcom : Office of Communications | btcom : BT Group PLC

IN i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i3433 : Alarms/Signaling Equipment | i8200304 : Buildings/Contents Insurance | i3302 : Computers/Consumer Electronics | i82 : Insurance | i82003 : Non-life Insurance | icaslty : Property/Casualty Insurance | ielec : Consumer Electronics | ifinal : Financial Services | iindele : Industrial Electronics | iindstrls : Industrial Goods | issyst : Security Systems | itech : Technology | i79021 : Wired Telecommunications Services

NS gtheft : Burglary/Theft | gcat : Political/General News | gcrim : Crime/Legal Action

RE uk : United Kingdom | eurz : Europe | weurz : Western Europe

PUB Telegraph Media Group Ltd.

AN Document DT00000020220326ei3q0002n

SE Crime
HD **£1,000 reward for information on highly disruptive cable thefts in Doncaster**

BY Stephanie Bateman (stephanie.bateman@jpimedia.co.uk)

WC 620 words

PD 25 March 2022

SN Doncaster Free Press

SC DONCFP

LA English

CY © 2022 Johnston Publishing Limited

LP

A reward of up to £1,000 is available for anonymous information given to the charity Crimestoppers which leads to the conviction of those responsible for recent cable thefts in the Doncaster villages of Cudworth, Adwick-Le-Street and Campsall.

The independent charity Crimestoppers and Openreach, the UK's largest phone and broadband network, have joined forces to appeal for information after a series of recent cable thefts affected hundreds of homes and local businesses.

TD

The reward money is being offered by Openreach, through charity Crimestoppers, for anonymous information about the thefts, which left emergency services, residential premises and businesses without the use of vital phones, broadband or TV streaming services.

Large sections of live cable were dragged from the underground network using 4x4 vehicles at three locations:

Cudworth – Engine Lane: The theft occurred in the early hours between 1am and 3am on March 15, 2022.

Adwick-Le-Street – Church Lane: The first theft occurred between 3am and 5am on March 16, 2022.

Adwick-Le-Street – Church Lane: The second attempted theft at this location occurred at approximately 2.30am on March 22.

Campsall (Askern) – Campsall Balk: This theft occurred between the hours of 1am and 4am, also on March 22.

Despite swift action by Openreach engineers, who are in the process of replacing hundreds of metres of cable in all of the above locations, the damage has still caused major disruption for hundreds of households, including essential emergency services and community isolations. Significant damage was also caused to the environment, farmland and street furniture.

READ MORE: [Man arrested after teenage boy beaten with metal bar in Doncaster street attack](#)

Openreach has a partnership with Crimestoppers offering rewards for information given anonymously to the charity about cable thefts that leads to the arrest and conviction of those responsible. If you have any information on these incidents, please contact Crimestoppers 100 per cent anonymously on 0800 555 111 or use the anonymous online form at www.crimestoppers-uk.org

Gemma Gibbs, Yorkshire Regional Manager at the charity Crimestoppers, said: "The reward amount on offer by Openreach for these extremely disruptive cable thefts reflect the huge amount of damage caused to services and the local environment, and the importance they place on the issue. This is not a victimless crime. With essential emergency services also being severely impacted by this, the potential devastating effect on human life cannot be underestimated.

"We urge anyone with any information on those behind these thefts to speak to Crimestoppers completely anonymously. We know that some people feel unable to speak directly to authorities, which is why our independent charity is here to help. You can tell us what you know while protecting your identity and staying 100% anonymous. Always. This promise has been kept since we began in the 1980s."

Richard Ginnaw, Head of Security Services for Openreach, said: "These incidents have severely impacted the day-to-day lives of people across these areas of Doncaster, and this is why we are offering this reward. Did you see any suspicious people or vehicles in or around the areas targeted on the dates and times of the incidents or in the days leading up to the thefts?"

If you have any information about these incidents, please contact Crimestoppers on freephone 0800 555 111 or through the online form at www.crimestoppers-uk.org 100 per cent anonymously.

In these confusing and worrying times, local journalism is more vital than ever. Thanks to everyone who helps us ask the questions that matter by [taking out a subscription](#) or buying a paper. We stand together. Nancy Fielder, editor.

CO btcom : BT Group PLC

IN i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i79021 : Wired Telecommunications Services

NS gcrim : Crime/Legal Action | gcha : Charities/Philanthropy | gtheft : Burglary/Theft | gcat : Political/General News | gcom : Society/Community

RE uk : United Kingdom | eurz : Europe | weurz : Western Europe

IPD Crime

PUB JPIMedia Limited

AN Document DONCFP0020220325ei3p0005o

HD Engineering; Research from Poznan University of Technology Yields New Findings on Engineering (A Systems Approach for Solving Inter-Policy Gaps in Dynamic Spectrum Access-Based Wireless Rural Broadband Networks)

WC 547 words

PD 25 March 2022

SN Medical Letter on the CDC & FDA

SC MLCF

PG 5264

LA English

CY © Copyright 2022 Medical Letter on the CDC & FDA via NewsRx.com

LP

2022 APR 3 (NewsRx) -- By a News Reporter-Staff News Editor at Medical Letter on the CDC & FDA -- Investigators discuss new findings in engineering. According to news reporting originating from Poznan, Poland, by NewsRx correspondents, research stated, "In this paper, we articulate the challenge of multiple intersecting policies for the realization of rural broadband networks employing dynamic spectrum access (DSA). Broadband **connectivity** has been identified as a critical component of economic development, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic, and rural communities have been significantly (and negatively) affected by the lack of this important resource."

Financial supporters for this research include Fulbright Poland Funder DOI: 10.13039/100018031 Award:.

TD

The news reporters obtained a quote from the research from Poznan University of Technology: "Although technologies exist that can deliver broadband connectivity, such as 4G LTE and 5G cellular networks, the challenges associated with efficiently deploying this infrastructure within a rural environment are multi-dimensional in terms of the different dependent policy decisions that need to be considered. To resolve this issue, we describe how systems engineering tools can be used for representing these intersecting policies such that system configurations can be optimized for efficient infrastructure deployment and operations. One technology requiring increased attention is DSA, where licensed and emerging wireless services can coexist together via spectrum sharing. However, implementation of this technology is challenging, where highly efficient Radio Access Technology (RAT), available spectrum, and user requirements need to be precisely aligned. All these elements to be configured are typically described by independent policies. While DSA is more complicated than previously used spectrum allocation schemes, inter-policy gaps occur that ultimately decrease the network's efficiency. Consequently, a systems engineering framework has the potential to obtain the optimal solutions although the systems and wireless communities conceptualize and scope problems differently, which can impede collaboration."

According to the news editors, the research concluded: "We present the use case where 4G LTE RAT technology employing DSA applied to digital terrestrial television (DTT) frequency bands can yield spectral efficiency loss when the different policy dimensions are not sufficiently accounted for within the use case. Numerical experiments have shown that in an example rural scenario the availability of rural broadband can increase from 1% to 21% of locations if the inter-policy gaps are removed."

For more information on this research see: A Systems Approach for Solving Inter-Policy Gaps in Dynamic Spectrum Access-Based Wireless Rural Broadband Networks. IEEE Access, 2022,10():25165-25174. (IEEE Access - <http://ieeexplore.ieee.org/servlet/opac?punumber=6287639>). The publisher for IEEE Access is IEEE.

A free version of this journal article is available at <https://doi.org/10.1109/ACCESS.2022.3156106>.

Our news journalists report that more information may be obtained by contacting Pawel Kryszkiewicz, Institute of Radiocommunications, Poznan University of Technology, Poznan, Poland. Additional authors for this research include Casey I. Canfield, Shamsnaz Virani Bhada, Alexander M. Wyglinski.

Keywords for this news article include: Poznan University of Technology, Poznan, Poland, Europe, Technology, Electronics, Engineering, Broadband Network.

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CO unelc : EE Ltd. | btcom : BT Group PLC

IN iwrlssl : Wireless Area Network Technology | idct : Digital Cellular Technology | i3302 : Computers/Consumer Electronics | i3303 : Networking | itech : Technology | i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i79022 : Wireless Telecommunications Services

NS gout : Outbreaks/Epidemics | ccat : Corporate/Industrial News | gcat : Political/General News | ghea : Health | gmed : Medical Conditions | gspox : Infectious Diseases

RE pol : Poland | devgcoz : Emerging Market Countries | eecz : European Union Countries | eeurz : Central/Eastern Europe | eurz : Europe

IPD Expanded Reporting

PUB NewsRX, LLC

AN Document MLCF000020220325ei3p000dn

SE Alert
 HD ITAT: Sum paid for network **connectivity** services, not royalty; Deletes Rs.383 Cr disallowance
 WC 628 words
 PD 25 March 2022
 SN Taxsutra
 SC TAXSUT
 LA English
 CY © TAXSUTRA. All rights reserved. Realtime Taxsutra Services Private Limited.
 LP

Delhi ITAT rules in favour of Assessee, holds that **payment** made to BT PLC (British Company) for network **connectivity** services is not in the nature of royalty in terms of Article 13 of the India-UK DTAA; Assessee paid Rs.

TD

383 Cr to BT PLC as network connectivity services as per the agreement for provision of telecommunication services and claimed the same as infrastructure cost; Revenue, for AY 2015-16, noted that Assessee had not withheld taxes under Section 195 on sum paid for network connectivity services which was in the nature of royalty as per Article 13 of India-UK DTAA as well as Section 9(1)(vi) Explanation 2(iii), thus, disallowed the amount under Section 40(a)(i), which was upheld by CIT(A); ITAT, based on the agreement between Assessee and the British Company, observes that the Assessee had installed its own equipment in India for providing necessary bandwidth services to its Indian customers and the network connectivity services were procured only to achieve the foreign leg of the connectivity and thus, rejects Revenue's argument that Assessee does not have any equipment in India; Points out that there is no equipment of non-resident service provider being in India and the agreement clearly mentioned that the Assessee is required to develop, operate and maintain all telecommunication network within India, remarks that "there is a difference between an agreement that gives "Right to use equipment" and an agreement which involves provisions of services through use of equipment by service provider."; Relies on SC ruling in Engineering Analysis and jurisdictional HC ruling in New Skies Satellite to elucidate that domestic law cannot be read into treaties, unless treaties are amended bilaterally; On Revenue's argument that the said payment was for equipment royalty, refers to Article 13(3) of the India-UK DTAA and states that Assessee had no 'right to use equipment' for it to be encompassed under the definition of Royalty under Article 13; States that observing the business module, it is clear that network of BT PLC including the related equipment is used by BT PLC only, thus holds that for provision of network connectivity services in relation to its subscribers, no access/control whatsoever in relation to such network/ any equipment is provided to the Assessee; Explains that the Assessee as a service provider is only concerned with the transfer of telecommunication traffic through availing service from BT PLC without having any knowledge or any manner of access in respect of the equipment being used for these services, thus opines that "the Assessee does not obtain/receive any right to use the networking of BT."; Factually distinguishes Revenue's reliance on Verizon Communications, explains that Verizon had itself provided some customers premise, equipment for use to its customers in India under the terms of its contract with Indian customers whereas the facts of the case in hand are devoid of such things; Also rejects Revenue's argument to distinguish jurisdictional HC ruling in New Skies Satellite, states that the decision deals with the definition of royalty provided for in DTAA between India-Netherlands and India-Thailand and definition of Royalty as per India-Thailand DTAA is same as definition in India-UK DTAA, thus it cannot be said that the decision is not applicable to facts of case.:ITAT DEL

The ruling was delivered by Division Bench of Delhi ITAT comprising Shri N.K. Billaiya, Accountant Member, and Shri Anubhav Sharma, Judicial Member.

Advocates Deepak Chopra and Rohan Khare appeared for the Assessee while the Revenue was represented by Ms. Anupama Anand, CIT- DR.

B.T. Global Communications India Pvt. Ltd [TS-209-ITAT-2022(DEL)]

CO btcom : BT Group PLC

IN i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i79021 : Wired Telecommunications Services

NS gdip : International Relations | c33 : Contracts/Orders | c13 : Regulation/Government Policy | e211 : Government Budget/Taxation | c333 : Non-Government Contracts/Orders | cinfo : Information Technology Policy | ccat : Corporate/Industrial News | e21 : Government Finance | ecat : Economic News | gcat : Political/General News | gpir : Politics/International Relations | ncat : Content Types | nfact : Factiva Filters | nfcpin : C&E Industry News Filter

RE india : India | asiaz : Asia | bric : BRICS Countries | devgcoz : Emerging Market Countries | dvpcoz : Developing Economies | indsubz : Indian Subcontinent | sasiaz : Southern Asia

PUB Realtime Taxsutra Services Pvt. Ltd.

AN Document TAXSUT0020220325ei3p0005p

HD	EE hosts full-fibre broadband powered Ultimate Gamer event
WC	87 words
PD	25 March 2022
SN	Telecompaper Europe
SC	TELEUR
LA	English
CY	Copyright 2022 Telecompaper. All Rights Reserved.
LP	<p>EE has partnered with Excel Esports, London-based competitive gaming culture brand, to launch a the new EE Ultimate Gamer event.</p> <p>This event will include a 6-hour Twitch stream on 30 March with four famous British personalities playing against each other across three separate games - FIFA 22, Forza Horizon 5 and Halo Infinite - a in house powered by EE full-fibre broadband. GINX TV will handle broadcast production, with the stream hosted by esports personality Adam Savage.</p>
CO	unelc : EE Ltd. btcom : BT Group PLC
IN	i7902 : Telecommunication Services i79022 : Wireless Telecommunications Services
NS	ccat : Corporate/Industrial News c22 : New Products/Services cpartn : Partnerships/Collaborations cexpro : Products/Services ncat : Content Types nfact : Factiva Filters nfcpin : C&E Industry News Filter
RE	eurz : Europe
PUB	Telecompaper BV
AN	Document TELEUR0020220325ei3p0002u

HD Vodafone wants to get more SMBs hooked up to full **fibre**

BY Steve McCaskill

WC 426 words

PD 24 March 2022

SN TechRadar

SC TECHR

LA English

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LP

Vodafone promises faster speeds, more reliability, and futureproofed infrastructure ahead of analogue switch off.

Vodafone is looking to entice even the smallest business to upgrade to full **fibre** broadband, offering an enterprise-grade **fibre** to the premise (FTTP) service to any organisation with ten or fewer employees.

TD

The new small and home office (SoHo) product promises speeds of at least 100Mbps, enhanced reliability, free installation, and dedicated support in 26 towns and UK cities, with connectivity delivered via either the Openreach or CityFibre networks. Coverage will expand to more locations in the coming months.

Vodafone says the enhanced connectivity will deliver a significant performance boost at a time when businesses of all sizes are undergoing a digital transformation and flexible working is becoming the norm.

> [Openreach connects six million homes and businesses to full fibre](#)

> [Openreach adds 98 more exchanges to digital migration plans](#)

> [BT says it'll let Openreach go it alone on FTTP rollout](#)

Vodafone full fibre

"Small businesses operate in an increasingly digital-first environment, one where virtual meetings, hybrid working and online commerce are the norm," said Andrew Stevens, head of small and medium business at Vodafone. "People are now more likely to first encounter and engage with a typical small business online than they are 'in real life', and business owners need to know they can stay connected with remote teams to serve their customers and keep everything running smoothly.

"We've made it really simple to switch to superfast full fibre, with no upfront installation costs – perfect for today's busy SoHo businesses who want to prioritise productivity and growth post-pandemic."

Vodafone is also positioning the product as a way for small businesses to futureproof their infrastructure as the UK gears up to switch off its analogue copper-based telephone network.

BT-owned Openreach wants to complete the switchover from Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN) to IP by the mid-2020s so its voice services can compete better with over the top (OTT) offerings such as Skype and WhatsApp.

Whereas PSTN requires a complex network of physical lines, IP services only need the Internet to function, meaning communications providers could simply deliver a digital voice service over the top of a more modern broadband system.

BT has so far announced more than 550 exchanges where it will stop selling analogue services to third parties within the next 12 months.

* If you want to make the jump early, here are our [best fibre broadband deals](#)

[Optical fiber \(Pixabay\)](#)

CO ctyfhl : CityFibre Infrastructure Holdings PLC | btcom : BT Group PLC | ratel : Vodafone Group Plc

IN i7902 : Telecommunication Services | iwrssl : Wireless Area Network Technology | ioptoel : Optoelectronic Devices | i3302 : Computers/Consumer Electronics | i3303 : Networking | i34531 : Semiconductors | iindele : Industrial Electronics | iindstrls : Industrial Goods | itech : Technology | i3441 : Telecommunications Equipment | i79021 : Wired Telecommunications Services | i79022 : Wireless Telecommunications Services | ibrdbi : Broadband Equipment | ifbropt : Fiber Optic Equipment

NS ccat : Corporate/Industrial News | csmlbs : Small/Medium Businesses | ncat : Content Types | nfact : Factiva Filters | nfcpx : C&E Executive News Filter

PUB Future Publishing Ltd.

AN Document TECHR00020220324ei3o000bd

The Telegraph

SE News
HD **Help! They're killing off the landline**
BY By Stephen Armstrong
WC 1,384 words
PD 23 March 2022
ET 06:00
SN The Telegraph Online
SC TELUK
LA English
CY The Telegraph Online © 2022. Telegraph Media Group Ltd.
LP

Fears are growing that a change to a digital system will leave many isolated – including those who need the telephone the most

Andrew Smith discovered BT was switching his in-laws from an old-school landline to a “new **fibre** broadband VOIP system” when he returned from holiday last August, and rang them check they were OK – only to find their phone had been disconnected.

TD

“My wife was worried, because if something happened to them, how would we know?” he explains. “And how would their careline people know? My mother-in-law has slight dementia and limited mobility. If she falls over, my father-in-law has a bad back so can’t pick her up. They have a monitoring system, and if they fall over, they get a call. But the system goes down the landline, so they wouldn’t be connected. She was very concerned.”

He found that his in-laws landline had been replaced with a digital VOIP system (short for “voice over the internet protocol”), which uses fibre optic broadband rather than telephone wires. All of Britain’s 29 million homes will be switched to the new system by 2025, which runs off a home router plugged into the house electricity. Some 1.5 million people have already had their landlines replaced. The current copper wire landline, known as the Public Switched Telephone Network or PSTN, has its own power supply, meaning that in the case of a power cut, the landline still works. This is not the case with the digital system, and in three years, that power will be switched off.

In the case of Andrew Smith’s in-laws, the engineer had installed the line and left without letting them know they needed new VOIP phones, or that their old line would be disconnected. It took about a month to get their number back up and running, he recalls, and BT reconnected the care line in October.

After power cuts during recent storms caused digital phones to stop working, even though traditional landlines continued operating, Smith was concerned his in-laws would be at risk in the case of a power cut. The engineer promised a back-up battery, but when this hadn’t arrived a month later, BT demanded the Smiths send a doctor’s letter with medical details to prove the battery was deserved. “I don’t see why a telecom company should have that private information,” he adds.

Keith Benning, community councillor in Ceiriog Valley, north-east Wales, where electricity is supplied by overhead lines, not underground cable, says this year alone local villages have lost power twice, with both outages lasting several hours. “If there was a power cut we could be unable to contact help,” he explains. “There are people who depend on the medical alert systems – we have a 95-year-old neighbour over the road. BT say they could give us mobile phones. But what’s the use of that when there’s no mast within miles?”

Mr Smith and Mr Benning sent just two of the deluge of reader’s letters that have cascaded into The Daily Telegraph’s offices after BT’s Chris Howe told this paper last week that the company was “confident we can manage the majority of customers’ needs and give them assurance and confidence that they have got connectivity”.

Readers pointed to mobile phone black spots, the lack of the powered copper landline after Storm Arwen power cuts, the lack of notice or information about the changeover and battery back-up packs failing to arrive.

"During Storm Arwen, the only phone we could use was the BT landline into the master socket using a simple cabled handset," wrote William Loneskie from Oxtun. "The digital phones were down, as were all the mobile networks – for two days. If we were on 'digital voice', we would have been unable to phone 999 at all."

David Ellis from Aberdeenshire lost power during Arwen and phoned BT to be told to "keep my mobile charged. With inevitable predictability, my phone went flat just after 4G went off. Luckily, being a sailor, I have a handheld marine VHF radio."

Brian Whittingham, 74, from Dorchester, had asked BT not to migrate his phoneline to digital voice. "But I kept on receiving emails or letters saying, you're about to be changed over. And I then eventually got to the point where I wrote an email to them saying, 'this is my formal declaration, I do not wish to be moved to digital voice.' And still they changed me over. I felt steamrollered. Now, if there was a power cut, I'll lose my telephone line."

Dame Esther Rantzen, the founder and president of the [Silver Line, which provides information, friendship and support to older people](#), urged BT to "rethink the current policy of removing landlines, which for many of our callers are a lifeline. People should have the choice. If there was blanket coverage and if this were happening in 25 years' time, things would be different – but right now, you have to allow older people the choice."

When she launched the Silver Line in 2013, early backing came from then CEO of BT Gavin Pattinson, who gave "vital donations" to cover the cost of the calls. "Just over half of callers ring us from their landlines," says Dame Esther. "They ring us because they need help, because they're frightened, anxious, or alone at 3am or on a Sunday afternoon. I can't overstate how callous this decision is for older people. Once again this is an example of older people being out of sight, out of mind and neglected."

None of the readers who contacted the newspaper objected to the programme in principle; BT subsidiary OpenReach, which oversees the installing and maintaining of cables for all landline operators, is replacing a system designed in the early Eighties to last 15 years.

"No one is making spares any more," says BT's Chris Howe. "If we keep it going past 2025, the technology will start to fall apart. The new system operates similar to the way things are today, but give better quality calls, future-proofs the network and allows us to use AI scam protection on landlines." Readers unanimously accept this point. But they object to how poorly the change has been communicated, to the lack of choice, and to a system that is ignoring the concerns of those left behind, battling loneliness and health issues.

Also, many readers have reported being told that the landline switch-over is a government decision and that staff are just carrying out instructions. This, telecoms regulator Ofcom informed The Daily Telegraph, is not true – the decision is industry-led, not government or regulator-led.

While BT has the largest number of landline customers, with 38 per cent of the market, Ofcom has been critical of most of the companies involved – including BT, EE, KCOM, Plusnet, Shell Energy, Sky, TalkTalk, Virgin Mobile, Vodafone and OpenReach – pointing out that consumers seem unaware that they are to be migrated until a few days in advance, that it is not clearly explained battery back-ups are available and that customers have been cut off from telecare thanks to companies failing to assess customer needs.

"We have to hold our hands up and say we have not got this right," BT's Chris Howe admits. "This is the largest and most complex technology transfer in decades. We have worked hard, but there is more to do."

For Dame Esther and for Martin Jones, the CEO of telecare provider Home Instead, there is still not enough discussion of the loneliness older people will face if the service fails. "Gone are the days when families live in close proximity – it's not just the elderly who need to reach out," says Jones. "Families need the reassurance and comfort of being able to easily check in. The apparent lack of thought on the part of BT is disappointing. The impact will be to increase loneliness and isolation."

"Imagine if this change had come in before Covid. It would have been monumental."

Are you concerned by the prospect of losing landlines? Share your view in the comments section below

CO btcom : BT Group PLC

IN i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i79021 : Wired Telecommunications Services

NS gblac : Blackouts | gcat : Political/General News | gdis : Disasters/Accidents | gmmdis :
Accidents/Man-made Disasters

PUB Telegraph Media Group Ltd.

AN Document TELUK00020220323ei3n000jq

The Daily Telegraph

SE News
HD **The great cut-off - how the landline was killed**
BY Stephen Armstrong
WC 1,248 words
PD 23 March 2022
SN The Daily Telegraph
SC DT
ED 1; National
PG 20
LA English
CY The Daily Telegraph © 2022. Telegraph Media Group Ltd.

LP

Last month's storms have been a wake-up call to customers with new 'digital voice' phones, says Stephen Armstrong

Andrew Smith discovered BT was switching his in-laws from an old-school landline to a "new **fibre** broadband VOIP system" when he returned from holiday last August, and rang them check they were OK - only to find their phone had been disconnected.

TD

"My wife was worried, because if something happened to them, how would we know?" he explains. "And how would their careline people know? My mother-in-law has slight dementia and limited mobility. If she falls over, my father-in-law has a bad back so can't pick her up. They have a monitoring system, and if they fall over, they get a call. But the system goes down the landline, so they wouldn't be connected. She was very concerned."

He found that his in-laws' landline had been replaced with a digital VOIP system (short for "voice over the internet protocol"), which uses fibre optic broadband rather than telephone wires. All of Britain's 29million homes will be switched to the new system by 2025, which runs off a home router plugged into the house electricity. Some 1.5million people have already had their landlines replaced. The current copper wire landline, known as the public switched telephone network or PSTN, has its own power supply, meaning that in the case of a power cut, the landline still works. This is not the case with the digital system, and in three years, that power will be switched off.

In the case of Andrew Smith's in-laws, the engineer had installed the line and left without letting them know they needed new VOIP phones, or that their old line would be disconnected. It took about a month to get their number back up and running, he recalls, and BT reconnected the care line in October.

After power cuts during recent storms caused digital phones to stop working, even though traditional landlines continued operating, Smith was concerned his in-laws would be at risk in the case of a power cut. The engineer promised a back-up battery, but when this hadn't arrived a month later, BT demanded the Smiths send a doctor's letter with medical details to prove the battery was needed.

"I don't see why a telecom company should have that private information," he adds.

Keith Benning, community councillor in Ceiriog Valley, north-east Wales, where electricity is supplied by overhead lines, not underground cable, says this year alone local villages have lost power twice, with both outages lasting several hours. "If there was a power cut, we could be unable to contact help," he explains. "There are people who depend on the medical alert systems - we have a 95-year-old neighbour over the road. BT say they could give us mobile phones. But what's the use of that when there's no mast within miles?"

Mr Smith and Mr Benning sent just two of the deluge of readers' letters that have cascaded into The Daily Telegraph's offices after BT's Chris Howe told this paper last week that the company was "confident we can manage the majority of customers' needs and give them assurance and confidence that they have got connectivity".

Readers pointed to mobile phone black spots, the lack of the powered copper landline after Storm Arwen power cuts, the lack of notice or information about the changeover and battery back-up packs failing to arrive.

"During Storm Arwen, the only phone we could use was the BT landline into the master socket, using a simple cabled handset," wrote William Loneskie from Oxtun. "The digital phones were down, as were all the mobile networks - for two days. If we were on 'digital voice', we would have been unable to phone 999 at all."

Brian Whittingham, 74, from Dorchester, had asked BT not to migrate his phone line to digital voice. "But I kept on receiving emails or letters saying, you're about to be changed over," he says.

"And I then eventually got to the point where I wrote an email to them saying, 'This is my formal declaration, I do not wish to be moved to digital voice.' And still they changed me over. I felt steamrollered. Now, if there is a power cut, I'll lose my telephone line."

Dame Esther Rantzen, the founder and president of The Silver Line, which provides information and support to older people, urged BT to "rethink the current policy of removing landlines, which for many of our callers are a lifeline. People should have the choice. If there was blanket coverage and if this were happening in 25 years' time, things would be different - but right now, you have to allow older people the choice."

When she launched The Silver Line in 2013, early backing came from then

CEO of BT Gavin Patterson, who gave "vital donations" to cover the cost of the calls. "Just over half of callers ring us from their landlines," says Dame Esther. "They ring us because they need help, because they're frightened, anxious, or alone at 3am or on a Sunday afternoon. I can't overstate how callous this decision is for older people. Once again this is an example of older people being out of sight, out of mind and neglected."

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CO btcom : BT Group PLC

IN i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i79021 : Wired Telecommunications Services

NS gblac : Blackouts | gcat : Political/General News | gdis : Disasters/Accidents | gmmdis :
Accidents/Man-made Disasters
RE uk : United Kingdom | eurz : Europe | weurz : Western Europe
PUB Telegraph Media Group Ltd.
AN Document DT00000020220323ei3n0003d

HD DWP update: Universal Credit claimants eligible for free broadband - saving of £92

BY Patrick O'Donnell

WC 707 words

PD 22 March 2022

ET 16:00

SN express.co.uk

SC EXCO

LA English

CY Copyright 2022

LP

AROUND one million households are eligible to receive free broadband installation but only if they claim a specific benefit **payment** from the Department for Work and Pensions .

Universal Credit claimants are eligible for this “freebie” benefit which could save their household £92 on installation charges. This concession comes from Openreach, the **fibre** broadband network with most providers operate on. It comes following a report from Ofcom which found that two million households in the UK struggle to afford broadband services.

TD

Related articles

Less than one percent of Universal Credit recipients who are entitled to “social tariffs”, which give discounts on broadband bills, have put forward a claim for them.

Katie Milligan, Openreach’s managing director for Customer, Commercial & Propositions explained why the company is opting to help low income households in this way.

Ms Milligan said: “We believe everyone in the UK deserves access to decent, reliable and affordable broadband, and we’re working in every community, every day, to help make that a reality – including investing £15billion to build a new ultrafast, ultra-reliable full fibre broadband network to 25 million premises by December 2026.

READ MORE: Council tax reductions explained: Who is eligible to pay less and how to claim

“The way we’re regulated means millions of consumers and businesses will continue to benefit from low prices, which are already amongst the lowest in Europe and support strong competition amongst hundreds of providers using our network - but we want to go further.

“We hope this offer complements the range of existing support from providers across the industry and helps people who aren’t already online to start benefiting from the wealth of information, connectivity and opportunities that great broadband can deliver.”

Details on how to apply for the free broadband installation can be found on Outreach’s website via its Customer Portal.

Research conducted by USwitch.com found that the UK only ranked 26th in the world overall for average broadband speed at just 61.69 Mbps.

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Furthermore, the UK made it to the top five in terms of broadband affordability with the average monthly cost coming to £26.39.

This is the equivalent of 1.16 percent of the average billpayer's salary, according to USwitch's data.

Catherine Hiley, broadband expert at Uswitch.com, cited the "deals" on offer to Britons which help lower costs.

Ms Hiley explained: "It's fair to say that we have become increasingly dependent on reliable broadband over the last few years.

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"While many people have made the switch to working from home, a record number of people have also turned to the internet to stay entertained and connected.

"It's interesting to see that the UK ranks only 26th for median download speed, averaging less than the top-ranking country, Chile.

"The download speed in the UK means it would take three minutes and 15 seconds to download a 1500MB film, whereas in Chile it takes just one minute three seconds to download the same size movie.

Related articles

"These figures demonstrate that the UK still has a long way to go in terms of offering fast and reliable speeds."

She added: "On the plus side, the UK ranks fifth for broadband affordability, showing that we have access to plenty of competitive deals, with the average monthly broadband fee costing £26.39 per month.

"With a reliable connection quickly becoming a fundamental backbone of almost every aspect of life, the need for seamless broadband connectivity grows even stronger.

"If your own broadband isn't up to scratch, or you feel like you're overpaying, then compare ultrafast broadband deals to determine your options."

Related articles Universal Credit payment dates for Easter and how to claim 30 freebies Easter Bank Holiday benefits payment date: When will payments be made? Can Rishi pull off mission impossible for all our sakes?

CO	ofcom : Office of Communications ukdwp : UK Department for Work and Pensions btcom : BT Group PLC
IN	ibrdbi : Broadband Equipment i3302 : Computers/Consumer Electronics i3303 : Networking i3441 : Telecommunications Equipment itech : Technology i7902 : Telecommunication Services i79021 : Wired Telecommunications Services
RE	uk : United Kingdom eurz : Europe weurz : Western Europe
PUB	Express Newspapers
AN	Document EXCO000020220322ei3m007ka

The Telegraph

SE Money
HD **Elderly people's personal alarms rendered useless by BT digital phone rollout**
BY By Harry Brennan
WC 627 words
PD 21 March 2022
ET 06:00
SN The Telegraph Online
SC TELUK
LA English
CY The Telegraph Online © 2022. Telegraph Media Group Ltd.
LP

As many as 500,000 vulnerable people could be unable to call for help if they fall

Users of personal healthcare alarms face being unable to call for help if they have a medical emergency, as BT's digital phone rollout will render many of the **devices** useless, the telecoms watchdog has warned.

TD

BT and other providers are replacing all traditional landline phones in Britain with new "voice over internet" phones that make calls using broadband by 2025, as the decades-old ["public switched"](#) copper line network has become too complex to manage.

But it means many panic alarms which use analogue phone line technology to call up relatives or the emergency services will cease to function.

Close to half a million BT customers use the devices, which typically are strapped to a wrist or worn on a pendant around the neck in case of a fall or serious medical incident, such as a stroke or heart attack.

The regulator Ofcom warned devices linked to landlines will need to be replaced or reconfigured and said it was concerned vulnerable customers were not being identified and informed their devices could stop working.

It has written to the big four telecoms providers BT, Sky, Virgin and TalkTalk expressing dismay at the lack of preparedness among users of the emergency devices.

It told the telecom companies their "triaging of vulnerable consumers has been inadequate, and the advice received inaccurate". It raised concerns that many customers were unaware their phone lines were being replaced and that their devices would stop operating until a few days before their landlines were switched off.

Alarm provider PPP Taking Care also warned certain devices would no longer work. It said it had carried out tests on its devices to ensure they remained compatible and said customers should get in touch to see if their systems needed to be upgraded or not.

It comes after BT [admitted some customers in isolated areas could be left unable to dial 999](#) in an emergency during a sustained blackout on its internet-powered phones, after customers were cut off during Storm Eunice.

Some 1.5 million BT customers have already had their old landlines replaced with new digital systems. Around 15pc of landlines are now accessed over broadband, up from 8pc last year, according to regulator Ofcom.

Caroline Abrahams of Age UK, Britain's biggest charity for the elderly, said "public communications about the switchover have been poor to date and urgently need attention". "Older people need to know from their telecoms provider, Ofcom and the Government what will happen when, and what their options are," she added.

Chris Howe of BT, who is in charge of customer service for the digital phones rollout, said the firm was working with providers to prepare them for the change.

However, he conceded there was a challenge in identifying all of the numerous devices that still used analogue technology and said concerned customers should get in touch and ask for help. He added BT would not cover the cost of replacing or upgrading systems that did not work with its new "digital voice" phones.

Customers face upgrading to new devices that work with the new technology, or replacing them with more costly alternatives, such as alarms that use mobile sim networks to make emergency calls, rather than over the landline.

A BT spokesman added: "We recognise the concern of our customers who use personal alarms and health pendants that run on the analogue network. Our short-term simple solution is to delay upgrades for these more vulnerable customers and we can reassure our customers that we are working to remove them from the upgrade programme for now."

CO ofcom : Office of Communications | btcom : BT Group PLC
IN i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i79021 : Wired Telecommunications Services
NS gpersf : Personal Finance | gcat : Political/General News
PUB Telegraph Media Group Ltd.
AN Document TELUK00020220321ei3I0008j

HD Electron **Devices**; New Electron **Devices** Study Findings Have Been Reported from Chinese Academy of Sciences (Overlapping-mode Extended Interaction Klystrons for Broadband Terahertz Power Amplifiers)

WC 474 words

PD 21 March 2022

SN Journal of Engineering

SC JOENG

PG 1456

LA English

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LP

2022 MAR 21 (VerticalNews) -- By a News Reporter-Staff News Editor at Journal of Engineering -- Data detailed on Electron **Devices** have been presented. According to news reporting originating in Beijing, People's Republic of China, by VerticalNews journalists, research stated, "The design approaches of the overlapping-mode extended interaction klystrons (EIKs) are presented to satisfy the requirement for broadband terahertz power amplifiers. Since all the cavities are designed and tuned to operate in multiple-cavity modes, the overlapping-mode EIKs can provide high output power over a wider frequency band."

Financial supporters for this research include National Basic Research Program of China, National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC).

TD

The news reporters obtained a quote from the research from the Chinese Academy of Sciences, "The circuit characteristics of the overlapping-mode EIKs are studied, including the dispersion curve, the coupling coefficient, and the frequency interval between cavity modes. Moreover, a six-cavity EIK operating at 0.34 THz is designed to demonstrate the broadband output capability of the overlapping-mode EIKs. The 2 pi -mode and its adjacent axial mode, the pi /13-mode, are chosen as the operating modes of the designed EIK. The 3-D particle-in-cell (PIC) simulation predicts a 3-dB bandwidth of 2.9 GHz for the designed power amplifier at a small-signal level or in saturation. Driven by an input power of 10 mW, the amplifier can provide the output power of 3.9 W, and the corresponding gain is 25.9 dB."

According to the news reporters, the research concluded: "When the input power is 150 mW, the amplifier is partially saturated and can provide the output power of 33 W with a corresponding electronic efficiency of 1.23%."

This research has been peer-reviewed.

For more information on this research see: Overlapping-mode Extended Interaction Klystrons for Broadband Terahertz Power Amplifiers. IEEE Transactions on Electron Devices, 2022. IEEE Transactions on Electron Devices can be contacted at: IEEE Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers Inc, 445 Hoes Lane, Piscataway, NJ 08855-4141, USA. (Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers - www.ieee.org/; IEEE Transactions on Electron Devices - ieeexplore.ieee.org/xpl/RecentIssue.jsp?punumber=16)

Our news correspondents report that additional information may be obtained by contacting Qianzhong Xue, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Aerosp Informat Res Inst, Beijing 100190, People's Republic of China. Additional authors for this research include Naining Guo, Zhaowei Qu, Kegang Liu, Wenke Song, Xu Zhang, Ding Zhao, Haibing Ding and Jinjun Feng.

Keywords for this news article include: Beijing, People's Republic of China, Asia, Electron Devices, Broadband, Electronics, Chinese Academy of Sciences.

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CO nlcfdc : National Natural Science Foundation of China | unelc : EE Ltd. | btcom : BT Group PLC

IN i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i79022 : Wireless Telecommunications Services

NS ccat : Corporate/Industrial News

RE china : China | beijin : Beijing | apacz : Asia Pacific | asiaz : Asia | bric : BRICS Countries | chinaz : Greater China | devgcoz : Emerging Market Countries | dvpcoz : Developing Economies | easiaz : Eastern Asia

IPD Expanded Reporting

PUB NewsRX, LLC

AN Document JOENG00020220321ei3l000wa

HD Security Research; Investigators at Lancaster University Report Findings in Security Research (Don't Get Stung, Cover Your Ics In Honey: How Do Honeypots Fit Within Industrial Control System Security)

WC 470 words

PD 21 March 2022

SN Journal of Engineering

SC JOENG

PG 1033

LA English

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LP

2022 MAR 21 (VerticalNews) -- By a News Reporter-Staff News Editor at Journal of Engineering -- Current study results on Security Research have been published. According to news reporting originating in Lancaster, United Kingdom, by VerticalNews journalists, research stated, "The advent of Industry 4.0 and smart manufacturing has led to an increased convergence of traditional manufacturing and production technologies with IP communications. Legacy Industrial Control System (ICS) **devices**, now interconnected via public networks, are exposed to a wide range of previously un-considered threats, which must be considered to ensure the continued safe operation of industrial processes."

Funders for this research include Next Generation Converged Digital Infrastructure (NG-CDI) Prosperity Partnership - UK's EPSRC, British Telecom plc.

TD

The news reporters obtained a quote from the research from Lancaster University, "This paper surveys the ICS honeypot deployments in the literature to date, provides an overview of ICS focused threat vectors, and studies how honeypots can be integrated within an organisations defensive strategy. We discuss relevant legislation, such as the UK Cyber Assessment Framework, the US NIST Framework for Improving Critical Infrastructure Cybersecurity, and associated industry-based standards and guidelines supporting operator compliance. This is used to frame a discussion on our survey of existing ICS honeypot implementations, and the role of honeypots in supporting regulatory objectives. We observe that many low-interaction honeypots are limited in their use. This is largely due to the increased knowledge attackers have on how real-world ICS devices are configured and operate vs the configurability of simulated honeypot systems. Furthermore, we find that environments with increased interaction provide more extensive capabilities and value, due to their inherent obfuscation delivered through the use of real-world systems."

According to the news reporters, the research concluded: "Based on these insights, we propose a novel framework towards the classification and implementation of ICS honeypots."

This research has been peer-reviewed.

For more information on this research see: Don't Get Stung, Cover Your Ics In Honey: How Do Honeypots Fit Within Industrial Control System Security. Computers & Security, 2022;114. Computers & Security can be contacted at: Elsevier Advanced Technology, Oxford Fulfillment Centre The Boulevard, Langford Lane, Kidlington, Oxford OX5 1GB, Oxon, England. (Elsevier - www.elsevier.com; Computers & Security - www.journals.elsevier.com/computers-and-security/)

Our news correspondents report that additional information may be obtained by contacting Sam Maesschalck, Lancaster University, Secur Lancaster, Lancaster, United Kingdom. Additional authors for this research include Vasileios Giotsas, Benjamin Green and Nicholas Race.

Keywords for this news article include: Lancaster, United Kingdom, Europe, Security Research, Cybersecurity, Lancaster University.

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CO btcom : BT Group PLC | Incun : Lancaster University

IN i831 : Financial Investment Services | ifinal : Financial Services | iinv : Investing/Securities | i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i79021 : Wired Telecommunications Services

NS ccat : Corporate/Industrial News

RE uk : United Kingdom | eurz : Europe | weurz : Western Europe

IPD Expanded Reporting

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AN Document JOENG00020220321ei3l000m0

HD MTC installs private 5G network to help manufacturers boost productivity

BY CT Bureau

CR Distributed by Contify.com

WC 627 words

PD 21 March 2022

SN Communications Today

SC ATCOMT

LA English

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West Midlands 5G (WM5G) has demonstrated the results of its pioneering 5G trial in collaboration with nexGworx and its technology partners BT and Nokia at the Manufacturing Technology Centre (MTC).

As a result of the Government's 5G Testbeds and Trials programme, WM5G, nexGworx, BT and Nokia have collaborated to install a standalone 5G private network at the MTC in Coventry. This will give SMEs, corporate members, neighbouring universities, and the wider industry the opportunity to explore private 5G and on-premises multi-edge computing to drive forward innovation in the region beyond the duration of the programme.

TD

The MTC has just launched its first 5G-enabled demonstrator system to trial the technology, featuring 5G-connected robotics, computer vision and edge computing. Next generation technology and the underlying network infrastructure required to build the private 5G network will be based on Nokia Digital Automation Cloud.

The trial showcased an automated inspection process to prove how intelligent automation and advanced connectivity could enable manufacturing sites to maximise productivity and utilisation of inspection technology, whilst reducing footprint and product waste.

In many production environments, components of varied sizes and shapes are produced and need to be measured and checked to meet design tolerances. Traditional in-person inspections can be time consuming, are prone to human error and are not automatically recorded.

Communicating via BT's private standalone 5G network, automated and fast visual inspections can check that each component meets specification using high-definition cameras, before autonomously delivering parts to the next stage in the process.

By using mobile industrial robots for transporting parts and supporting the automation of visual inspection processes, equipment becomes more flexible to increase productivity and utilisation, whilst meeting quality assurance needs at any stage of the process.

The experimental tests of the 5G-connected technologies have proven the potential that advanced connectivity can offer to organisations. Using 5G technologies, manufacturers can find smart solutions to tackle challenges and replicate best practice, boosting overall sector performance and supporting an environmentally sustainable economic growth.

Andy Street, Mayor of the West Midlands, said: "This innovative collaboration between WM5G and MTC will enable some of our region's most cutting-edge businesses to power forward their pioneering work in computing and robotics alongside our dynamic universities. Given the commitment to Innovation Accelerators set out in the Levelling Up White Paper, this announcement is wonderfully timed".

Robert Franks, Managing Director at WM5G, said: "Manufacturing is at the heart of the economy in the West Midlands, and at WM5G we are working collaboratively with our partners to ensure that public and private sector organisations can remain competitive in the global marketplace and develop cutting edge technologies to advance their capabilities.

"We are so pleased to have delivered a successful trial in partnership with nexGworx and BT at the MTC, driving forward the transformation of manufacturing productivity for the region. The learnings and outcomes from our demonstration will now be used and applied across the sector to ensure best practice is carried forward, and to accelerate the adoption of 5G technology more widely."

Alejandra Matamoros, Technology Manager in the MTC's Digital Engineering Group, said: "Our connected facility at the MTC will allow manufacturers of all sizes, research, and technology suppliers to explore the benefits of 5G in manufacturing. Through our enduring collaboration with nexGworx and BT we are now planning to further build on the initial capability we've created here at the MTC to push the boundaries of what can be achieved with the help of 5G technology."

"We hope that this project will inspire further development of innovative solutions to solve real business challenges and develop new opportunities through advanced wireless connectivity."

CO btcom : BT Group PLC | nokia : Nokia Oyj

IN idct : Digital Cellular Technology | i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i3302 : Computers/Consumer Electronics | i3303 : Networking | itech : Technology | iwrssl : Wireless Area Network Technology | i3441 : Telecommunications Equipment | i79021 : Wired Telecommunications Services

NS ccat : Corporate/Industrial News

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AN Document ATCOMT0020220321ei3l00002

HD BT teams with Capslock for employee **cyber** security reskilling initiative

WC 139 words

PD 21 March 2022

SN Telecompaper Europe

SC TELEUR

LA English

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LP

BT has partnered with **cyber** security training organisation Capslock to launch a pilot employee **cyber** security training programme.

The online 16-week course will retrain current BT employees to teach them the skills needed to follow a new career in **cyber** security with BT Security. BT has selected 30 UK-based employees from its Consumer and Global divisions to participate in the scheme, which starts in Birmingham on 21 March with an in-person induction day.

TD

The accredited, team-based and interactive curriculum has been developed and will be delivered by Capslock. These employees will secure a new cyber security position at the end of the programme. These jobs will be located in Birmingham, Glasgow, Bristol and Manchester and will include roles in cyber operations, technical design and threat intelligence.

CO btcom : BT Group PLC

IN i7902 : Telecommunication Services | isecpri : Security/Privacy Software | i3302 : Computers/Consumer Electronics | i330202 : Software | i3302021 : Applications Software | icomp : Computing | itech : Technology | i79021 : Wired Telecommunications Services

NS c25 : Information Technology | ccat : Corporate/Industrial News | cemtpd : Employee Training/Development | cpartn : Partnerships/Collaborations | c42 : Labor/Personnel | ncat : Content Types | nfact : Factiva Filters | nfcpin : C&E Industry News Filter

RE eurz : Europe

PUB Telecompaper BV

AN Document TELEUR0020220321ei3I0008e

HD BT Group plc - BT launches employee **cyber** security reskilling programme in partnershi..

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WC 1,090 words

PD 21 March 2022

SN Public Companies News and Documents via PUBT

SC LCDVP

LA English

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BT launches employee **cyber** security reskilling programme in partnershi..

TD

* First-of-a-kind programme to address industry-wide cyber skills gap will see BT employees retrained and placed into cyber security roles

* BT is investing in its people and is offering a life-changing career move

* Digital hands-on curriculum provided by BT's accredited learning partner CAPSLOCK and developed around common cyber security workplace scenarios

BT is today launching a pilot employee cyber security reskilling programme in collaboration with award-winning cyber security training organisation, CAPSLOCK. The online 16-week course will retrain current BT employees and equip them with the skills needed to pursue a new career in Security - one of the fastest growing parts of BT.

The programme is being launched to help tackle the shortfall of people with cyber security skills, which has become a serious issue for businesses of all types. The Department for Digital Culture, Media & Sport ([DCMS](#)) estimates that approximately half of UK organisations have a basic cyber skills gap, while at the same time, the 'Great Resignation' is signalling a thirst for change amongst the nation's workforce.

After a rigorous recruitment process, 30 employees have been selected from BT's Consumer and Global divisions across the UK and will start the scheme today with an in-person induction day in Birmingham. Course participants will secure a new cyber security role at the end of the programme.

BT learners will study an accredited, interactive and team-based learning curriculum. Developed and delivered by CAPSLOCK's industry experts and academic professionals, it will simulate the full spectrum of real-world cyber problems from managing incidents, detecting malware and social engineering threats, to penetration testing, governance, risk and policy. This career-changing opportunity will provide BT learners with sought after skills and up to five certifications.

Perceptions of the cyber security profession unfortunately remain centred around those with a set of highly specialised technical skills. The reality is that the field needs a broad array of skills and experts to fill a range of roles, many of which rely on transferable skills that some people already possess or, importantly, can be easily developed through a programme such as CAPSLOCK.

Although BT will offer learners a number of roles suited to both technical and non-technical skillsets, it is the harder-to-fill more technical roles that this programme will address. Jobs available will include cyber operations, threat intelligence and technical design and will be located in Manchester, Bristol, Birmingham and Glasgow.

What's more, during the course CAPSLOCK will provide dedicated learner support including one-to-one professional coaching, careers counselling and mental health first aiders.

The new launch of the programme reinforces BT's investment in its people across the organisation and its commitment to training, development, and now reskilling to future-proof its employees' careers.

Learners will also be paired up with BT cyber mentors to ensure they are successful in their career transition.

Once graduated, BT's new cyber employees will become a [Protector](#), contributing to the protection of BT, its 30 million UK customers, governments, and critical national infrastructure.

Kevin Brown, Managing Director, BT Security said: "There simply aren't enough people with the necessary skills to fill the amount of cyber security jobs available. The 'cyber skills gap' is a hot topic in the security industry, and this pilot reskilling programme with CAPSLOCK is a key part of how we're working to develop the next generation of cyber security professionals. The scheme is all about opening doors for those who might not have seen an obvious way into a security career, and we're welcoming people who have different skillsets, backgrounds and ages as we're really looking for a diverse range of talent across our security team."

Dr Andrea Cullen, Co-founder at CAPSLOCK said: "Our mission in partnership with BT is to enable anybody with potential to enrol and change careers into cyber security. Importantly, we want to change perceptions that it is not just technical skills that are required to do well in this sector. The reality is that the field needs a broad array of skills and experts to fill a range of roles, many of which rely on transferable skills that many people already possess, and the holistic cyber skills which are developed throughout the CAPSLOCK course. With the right attitude and determination, anybody - no matter their past experience, education or age - has the potential to start a career in IT, technology, or cyber security."

-ENDS-

About BT Security:

As a global leader of managed security services, we help customers thrive in a digital world by delivering world-class security solutions. With operations in over 180 countries and a team of 3000 security experts around the globe, BT supports some of the world's largest companies, nation states and critical national infrastructures.

We protect our networks against around 6500 cyber-attacks every day, and this deep expertise combined with our global reach gives us a unique perspective on the cyber landscape. We're constantly analysing, predicting and responding to the latest threats, and we leverage the latest developments in technology and innovation to protect the UK's infrastructure, business and citizens.

For more information, visit www.bt.com/security

Further useful links:

- [BT Security Careers Page](#)
- [Who are the Protectors? - YouTube](#)
- [Meet the Real Protectors - YouTube](#)

About CAPSLOCK:

CAPSLOCK is an award-winning educational organisation that delivers cyber security bootcamps online, with no up-front costs. They help adults fully re-skill to become qualified cyber professionals in as little as four months, by removing barriers to career-changing education whilst bringing greater diversity into the cyber security sector. CAPSLOCK are interested in a learner's potential rather than in their past, so there are no academic entry requirements needed to enrol. Their graduates have been hired by the BBC, ITV, Allianz, BT, Dyson, PwC and many more. In 2021, they were named the 'Most Innovative Cyber Security SME of the Year' by the UK government.

* [Original Link](#)

Disclaimer

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CO btcom : BT Group PLC

IN i7902 : Telecommunication Services | isecpri : Security/Privacy Software | i3302 : Computers/Consumer Electronics | i330202 : Software | i3302021 : Applications Software | icomp : Computing | itech : Technology | i79021 : Wired Telecommunications Services

NS c25 : Information Technology | c22 : New Products/Services | npress : Press Releases | ccat : Corporate/Industrial News | cexpro : Products/Services | ncat : Content Types | nfact : Factiva Filters | nfcpin : C&E Industry News Filter

RE birmi : Birmingham (UK) | uk : United Kingdom | eland : England | eurz : Europe | weurz : Western Europe

PUB PUBT Inc

AN Document LCDVP00020220321ei3l008sq

HD Al-Burhan sends congratulatory **cable** to Tunisian President

WC 79 words

PD 20 March 2022

SN Sudan News Agency (SUNA)

SC SUDNWA

LA English

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LP

Khartoum, March 20 (SUNA) – President of the Transitional Sovereignty Council (TSC) Gen. Abdel-Fattah Al-Burhan sent a congratulatory **cable** today to Tunisian President Kais Saied on the occasion of the national day of his country.

Al-Burhan wished the Tunisian people more progress and development, affirming keenness of Sudan on boosting its relations with Tunisia for serving the interests of the two sisterly peoples.

TD

BT/BT

[Click to view image](#)

CO btcom : BT Group PLC

IN i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i79021 : Wired Telecommunications Services

NS gpol : Domestic Politics | gcat : Political/General News | gpir : Politics/International Relations

RE tunis : Tunisia | africaz : Africa | dvpcoz : Developing Economies | medz : Mediterranean | nafrz : North Africa

IPD news

PUB Sudan News Agency

AN Document SUDNWA0020220321ei3k00001

SE Wales News
HD **Telecoms giant BT is creating a new Cardiff office for 900 staff**

BY By, Sion Barry
WC 804 words
PD 18 March 2022
ET 12:40
SN walesonline.co.uk
SC WALESONL
LA English
CY © 2022 Reach Plc

LP

BT is investing millions in a new hub at the 3 Capital Quarter building in the biggest office letting deal in Wales this year

Telecoms giant BT is creating a new office hub in the centre of Cardiff for up to 900 staff as part of a multi-million-pound **investment**.

TD

In the biggest office property deal in Wales this year, BT will occupy 65,000 sq ft of grade A office space at the 3 Capital Quarter office building in the centre of city.

The investment is part of its ongoing better workplace programme, which by 2024 will see its 300 locations focused on 30 UK hubs. Projects have already been confirmed in locations including Birmingham and London.

For its Cardiff hub it is taking space being [vacated](#) by FTSE 100 insurance to loans group Admiral, which is exiting part of its office portfolio across South Wales as part of a permanent hybrid working model.

BT staff will move into the new hub by year end. The office building, which forms part of the wider Capital Quarter development is owned by property investor Mayfair Capital. It acquired the freehold interest from developer of the wider Capital Quarter scheme, JR Smart, two years ago.

Brent Mathews, BT's director of property and facilities services, said: "We're really pleased to have agreed this exciting new office space in the centre of Cardiff. Despite the economic challenges and changes to working patterns caused by the pandemic, we think this is an important investment and it secures our presence in the capital of Wales and the wider region.

"This will bring our people together in an impressive and modern environment in Cardiff's developing Capital Quarter. Our new offices reflect a move to more hybrid and flexible ways of working, with colleagues able to come together, using the latest technologies, to collaborate in inspiring workspaces. It will help us attract and retain brilliant people and we look forward to welcoming colleagues into this great new workspace when it's ready later this year."

As well as a location for existing BT staff in the city it will also act as a regional hub for colleagues, as well as its at arm's length engineering venture Openreach. The vast majority of staff will work on a hybrid basis.

BT will now enter in a consultation with staff on its hub plans, as we reviewing its existing office space in the city, including Stadium House next to the Principality Stadium.

BT had already adopted a flexible working policy prior to the pandemic. It said it couldn't say at this stage whether the new hub could support any new roles.

The new operation at 3 Capital Quarter will include smart building technology, flexible workspaces and collaboration areas. It also features a sixth floor roof terrace, underground cycle parking and shower and changing facilities.

Rhyddian Morris, director of the Cardiff office of property advisory firm JLL advised BT on the deal with Huw Thomas of Huw Thomas Commercial Property Consultancy advising Admiral.

Huw Thomas, leader of Cardiff City Council, said: "This announcement by BT is a big vote of confidence in the city and in our plans for the future.

"I'm pleased that BT sees Cardiff as a good place to invest and to continue recruiting its present and future workforce. This is good for skilled jobs, for the city and the wider region. The Central Cardiff Enterprise Zone was developed for this reason, to attract new investment, create new high quality workspaces and attract good, sustainable jobs."

Head of property for Admiral, Huw Llewellyn, said: "As part of our ongoing property strategy and office consolidation given our commitment to hybrid working, we are delighted that such a high quality tenant in BT Group will be taking on our Capital Quarter office space. We would like to thank JR Smart and family for their continued support, and our landlord and agent, Huw Thomas Huw Thomas Commercial Property Consultancy and Rhydian Morris JLL

"We're excited by the opportunities a more flexible, hybrid approach brings us, where colleagues can spend time working both at home, and together as teams in our offices working collaboratively. There's no doubt that the flexibility of approach will help us attract and retain the top talent in the market and that's important as we think about the future of our business."

Both parties wouldn't comment on whether Admiral has assigned its lease to BT, or whether a subletting deal has been struck.

BT Group remains one of Wales's leading employers and according to independent research its activities contribute almost £1bn to the Welsh economy gross value added and support more than 12,000 jobs.

CO btcom : BT Group PLC

IN i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i79021 : Wired Telecommunications Services

NS c24 : Capacity/Facilities | cprdop : Facility Openings | ccat : Corporate/Industrial News

RE wales : Wales | cardi : Cardiff | eurz : Europe | uk : United Kingdom | weurz : Western Europe

PUB Reach Plc

AN Document WALES0NL20220318ei3i00262

HD To beat China, India needs sustainable **ecosystem** for pharma: Karan Singh, MD, ACG

WC 1,069 words

PD 17 March 2022

SN Business Today Online

SC BTDYON

LA English

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LP

The global movement to de-risk from China has presented opportunities for India. Karan Singh, Managing Director of ACG, a multinational pharmaceutical company based in Mumbai, spoke to BT about what will it take to shift the backward integration of pharmaceutical products to India. He also talked about challenges and benefits of PLI scheme of India, and digitalisation of the pharma industry. Edited excerpts.

BT: How do you think India can build a sustainable **ecosystem** for the pharmaceutical industry?

TD

Karan Singh (KS): For India to bring back the manufacturing of APIs and raw materials in an environmentally responsible manner, a key pre-requisite is building a sustainable ecosystem for the pharmaceutical industry. Along with economic incentives for production, R&D and innovation, the government must provide centralised infrastructure support, reasonably priced power and energy supply and industry cluster level waste management systems for effluents. This will ensure we're not only capitalising on the present global trend of de-risking from China but building sustainable businesses that can cater to the global and local demand for medicines well into the future.

We need to evolve beyond how we traditionally approach production activities in India and go for a sandbox approach that helps in containing the impact of failures. In my opinion, attaining 'Atmanirbharta' lies in developing an ecosystem of 'smart' pharma parks which embrace next-generation technologies.

As regard to China, the government strategically supported its core industry when India opened its economy in 1990 allowing free imports of key active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs) hitherto procured locally, based on economic viability. By early 2000s, China became the largest supplier of key raw materials for manufacturing drugs. Through economic incentives making available cheap factors of production such as negligible land, and financial costs and, cheap electricity, water, and labour, it was able to gain a key position that India had previously enjoyed in the global manufacture and supply of bulk drugs and APIs.

This was not an easy feat for China to accomplish and this is what we will have to keep in mind when we chart the path back to self-sufficiency via backward integration.

BT: How can the PLI scheme be used to build India's position as a global pharma manufacturing hub?

KS: The Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme is an important step in fulfilling India's domestic healthcare needs in the immediate to medium term by developing a resilient supply chain. The way it is designed, it rewards the enterprise of companies that have the potential to be global champions and are willing to invest in India's long-term future.

In 2020, India's import dependence to manufacture life-saving drugs was nearly at 90 per cent. Over 70 per cent of our key starting materials (KSM), intermediaries, and APIs come from just one country – China. Coupled with the global healthcare crisis from the pandemic, strengthening India's pharma sector is now a national security imperative.

The vision of providing a boost to domestic production should be synchronised with the reduction in imports and building capabilities. Companies must invest in the upgradation of technology enabling production of affordable, safe, and effective medicines and build a resilient supply chain that can serve

the demand for medicines well into the future. The government must encourage businesses to not only become economically viable but also gain a competitive edge in the long run.

BT: What role can digitisation and industry 4.0 technologies like IoT, AI, digital twin play in improving pharma manufacturing?

KS: Exposing considerable weaknesses in supply chains across the globe, the pandemic has compelled the pharma and healthcare sectors to revisit their strategy and shift away from a 'just in time' to a 'just in case' approach. In 2022 and beyond, we will see a rise in new delivery models built on a resilient value chain by leveraging the benefits of digitalisation.

Ultimately by leveraging industry 4.0 technologies such as Internet of things (IoT), companies will be able to run at a higher level of efficiency with better working capital management to be competitive on a global scale and also be able to enhance the affordability of quality healthcare.

While building a self-reliant and robust pharma supply chain, our focus must be on creating high-performing and quality driven manufacturing units that can support smart, connected, and intelligent systems.

BT: What are the new areas of investment you would be looking at in 2022? What are the strategies that you will be considering in the next 5 years?

KS: ACG has been serving its global customers by a network of near shore manufacturing operations spread over 3 countries through manufacturing facilities across the continents of South America, Europe, and the Indian sub-continent. The learnings over the past two years are that if anything, we need to double down on and deepen our capabilities to secure and build resilient supply chains that can deliver affordable, safe, and effective medicines to patients globally. Over the next 5 years there will be greater thrust in expanding our portfolio of integrated pharmaceutical solutions to cater to evolving needs in healthcare that support global pharma majors.

BT: What is the pathway for India to become a global pharmaceutical hub by 2025?

KS: India became a leading supplier first with life-saving medicines and later with Made-in-India vaccines during the COVID 19 pandemic, solidifying our position as the 'Pharmacy of the World'.

To consolidate this momentum as a dependable supplier of safe, affordable and effective life-saving medicines to the world, our industry would need to build on its fundamental strengths while making a quantum leap towards innovation.

The route for India's success is three-fold: Firstly, after establishing ground in generics space, the industry is ready to build its R&D and innovation capability and adopt advanced manufacturing technologies to remain competitive in the global scenario. Secondly, we must embrace USFDA benchmarks, regarded as the highest standards operating procedures for manufacturing, to improve our current levels of quality and compliance. Thirdly, despite a vast skilled population and deep expertise in healthcare, we lack the infrastructure and foundation such as – hospitals, availability of latest medical technologies, amongst others.

Also Read: [Macquarie slashes Paytm price target to Rs 450](#)

Also Read: [Nykaa founder Falguni Nayar amongst world's new billionaires: Hurun Rich List](#)

CO btcom : BT Group PLC

IN i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i257 : Pharmaceuticals | i951 : Healthcare/Life Sciences | i79021 : Wired Telecommunications Services

NS ccsr : Corporate Social Responsibility | ccat : Corporate/Industrial News | cesg : Environmental/Social/Governance | ncat : Content Types | nfact : Factiva Filters | nfcpx : C&E Executive News Filter

RE india : India | china : China | apacz : Asia Pacific | asiaz : Asia | bric : BRICS Countries | chinaz : Greater China | devgcoz : Emerging Market Countries | dvpcoz : Developing Economies | easiaz : Eastern Asia | indsubz : Indian Subcontinent | sasiaz : Southern Asia

PUB Living Media India Limited

AN Document BTDYON0020220318ei3h0000k

HD Full fibre offering is a real recipe for success

BY By Times Reporter

WC 258 words

PD 17 March 2022

SN Larne Times

SC LARNTM

PG 14

LA English

CY © 2022 Johnston Publishing Limited

LP

An online bakery based in Ballyclare has benefitted from Openreach Northern Ireland's Full Fibre build across the region.

Ooh & Aah Cookies, which offers personalised baked goods to customers across the UK and Ireland, has amassed a loyal social media following of over 35k with their unique and personalised products.

TD

Established in 2015, Ooh & Aah Cookies founders Barbara-Anne McMullan and Ruth Armstrong have built their business using the power of digital technology.

As an online-only retailer, the team of eight manage orders, coordinate delivery, communicate with customers and promote their products online, making fast and reliable broadband essential to the business' success.

Having previously relied on a wifi dongle to run their business, they moved their premises to Ballyclare in October and were upgraded to Ultrafast Full Fibre broadband across the Openreach network.

Ruth said: "The difference Full Fibre broadband has made to our business is outstanding. The speed and reliability we've experienced has improved our efficiency and processes that previously took longer due to slow network speed can now be completed quicker, freeing up staff's time to be more productive in other areas of the business."

Barbara-Anne added: "Having a reliable broadband service allows us to directly reach our target audience using online advertising and communicate with them on a personal level, as well as regularly monitor campaign progress. Being accessible 24/7 via our website and social media allows us to be found by anyone, anywhere in the world."

CO btcom : BT Group PLC

IN i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i79021 : Wired Telecommunications Services

NS gcat : Political/General News

RE nirel : Northern Ireland | eurz : Europe | uk : United Kingdom | weurz : Western Europe

PUB JPIMedia Limited

AN Document LARNTM0020220318ei3h0000y

HD Final phase for superfast broadband

WC 128 words

PD 17 March 2022

SN Brighthouse Echo

SC BRIGEC

PG 6

LA English

CY © 2022. Johnston Publishing Limited

LP

Superfast West Yorkshire & York has announced the successful completion of the second and final phase of the partnership.

The partnership builds on hundreds of thousands of West Yorkshire premises being able to access superfast broadband as a result of Openreach's own commercial roll-out programme. The company is now building full **fibre** commercially across West Yorkshire, most recently in locations such as Hipperholme.

TD

Robert Thorburn, Openreach Partnership Director for the North, said: "The success of the Superfast West Yorkshire & York partnership is a great achievement and testament to the team who have worked so hard for the past eight years.

"Superfast West Yorkshire and York will continue to help communities to improve their broadband speeds working both with, and independently from, Openreach."

CO btcom : BT Group PLC

IN i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i79021 : Wired Telecommunications Services

NS gcat : Political/General News

RE uk : United Kingdom | eland : England | eurz : Europe | weurz : Western Europe

PUB JPIMedia Limited

AN Document BRIGEC0020220318ei3h0000d

HD EE says over 1.5 million film fans joined BAFTA Watch Party

WC 116 words

PD 15 March 2022

SN Telecompaper Europe

SC TELEUR

LA English

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LP

EE confirmed that more than 1.5 million film fans watched the company's 'Watch Party' on Twitter the night of the 2022 EE BAFTA Film Awards.

The Watch Party was hosted by Drag Race UK star Bimini, broadcaster, podcaster and TV presenter Clara Amfo, BBC Radio 1 film critic Ali Plumb, and film vlogger Daniel J Layton. In the hours leading up to the awards, three EE competition winners interviewed stars as they arrived at the Royal Albert Hall in London. Located at the EE BAFTA Film House, they were connected to Bimini and Clara on the red carpet through EE full-fibre broadband.

CO unelc : EE Ltd. | btcom : BT Group PLC

IN i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i79022 : Wireless Telecommunications Services

NS ccat : Corporate/Industrial News

RE bah : Bahamas | eurz : Europe | caribz : Caribbean Islands

PUB Telecompaper BV

AN Document TELEUR0020220315ei3f000rv

SE News
HD **BT creating a new office hub in city for 900 staff**
BY SION BARRY
WC 702 words
PD 15 March 2022
SN The Western Mail
SC WESMAI
ED 1; National
PG 19
LA English
CY © 2022 Western Mail and Echo Ltd
LP

TELECOMS giant BT is creating a new office hub in the centre of Cardiff for 900 staff as part of a multi-million-pound **investment**.

In the biggest office property deal in Wales this year, BT will occupy 65,000 sq ft of grade A office space at the 3 Capital Quarter office building in the city centre.

TD

The investment is part of its ongoing better workplace programme, which by 2024 will see its 300 locations focused on 30 UK hubs. Projects have already been confirmed in locations including Birmingham and London.

For its Cardiff hub it is taking space being vacated by FTSE 100 insurance to loans group Admiral, which is exiting part of its office portfolio across south Wales as part of a permanent hybrid working model.

BT staff will move into the new hub by year end. The office building, which forms part of the wider Capital Quarter development, is owned by property investor Mayfair Capital.

It acquired the freehold interest from the developer of the wider Capital Quarter scheme, JR Smart, two years ago.

Brent Mathews, BT's director of property and facilities services, said: "We're really pleased to have agreed this exciting new office space in the centre of Cardiff. Despite the economic challenges and changes to working patterns caused by the pandemic, we think this is an important investment and it secures our presence in the capital of Wales and the wider region.

"This will bring our people together in an impressive and modern environment in Cardiff's developing Capital

Quarter. Our new offices reflect a move to more hybrid and flexible ways of working, with colleagues able to come together, using the latest technologies, to collaborate in inspiring workspaces. It will help us attract and retain brilliant people and we look forward to welcoming colleagues into this great new workspace when it's ready later this year."

As well as a location for existing BT staff in the city, it will also act as a regional hub for colleagues, as well as its at-arm's-length engineering venture, Openreach.

BT will now enter in a consultation with staff on its hub plans, as it reviews its existing office space in the city, including Stadium House next to the Principality Stadium.

BT had already adopted a flexible working policy prior to the pandemic. BT said it couldn't say at this stage whether or not the new hub could support any new roles.

The new operation at 3 Capital

Quarter will include smart building technology, flexible workspaces and collaboration areas. It also features a sixth-floor roof terrace, underground cycle parking and shower and changing facilities.

Rhydian Morris, director of the Cardiff office of property advisory firm JLL, advised BT on the deal, with Huw Thomas, of Huw Thomas Commercial Property Consultancy, advising Admiral.

Head of property for Admiral Huw Llewellyn said: "As part of our ongoing property strategy and office consolidation given our commitment to hybrid working, we are delighted that such a high-quality tenant in BT Group will be taking on our Capital Quarter office space. We would like to thank JR Smart and family for their continued support, and our landlord and agent, Huw Thomas, and Rhydian Morris (JLL) "We're excited by the opportunities a more flexible, hybrid approach brings us, where colleagues can spend time working both at home, and together as teams in our offices working collaboratively. There's no doubt that the flexibility of approach will help us attract and retain the top talent in the market and that's important as we think about the future of our business."

Neither party would comment on whether Admiral has assigned its lease to BT, or whether a subletting deal has been struck.

Huw Thomas, leader of Cardiff City Council, said: "This announcement by BT is a big vote of confidence in the city and in our plans for the future.

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CO smrtjr : JR Smart (Builders) Ltd | btcom : BT Group PLC

IN i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i501 : Building Construction | i79021 : Wired Telecommunications Services | iconst : Construction | icre : Real Estate/Construction

NS cprdp : Facility Openings | ccat : Corporate/Industrial News | c24 : Capacity/Facilities

RE wales : Wales | cardi : Cardiff | eurz : Europe | uk : United Kingdom | weurz : Western Europe

PUB Reach Plc

AN Document WESMAI0020220315ei3f00014

SE News
HD BT creating new office hub in city for 900 workers

BY Sion Barry

WC 700 words

PD 15 March 2022

SN South Wales Echo

SC SOUWAL

ED 1; National

PG 4

LA English

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LP

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NS cprdrop : Facility Openings | ccat : Corporate/Industrial News | c24 : Capacity/Facilities

RE wales : Wales | cardi : Cardiff | eurz : Europe | uk : United Kingdom | weurz : Western Europe

PUB Reach Plc

AN Document SOUWAL0020220315ei3f0000t

HD BT partners with Google Cloud to boost digital transformation

BY Steve McCaskill

WC 452 words

PD 14 March 2022

SN TechRadar

SC TECHR

LA English

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LP

Personalisation and efficiency are the goals for the five-year deal between Google and BT.

BT will use Google Cloud's technology to advance its digital transformation, creating a group-wide data and artificial intelligence (AI) platform and to power new services for its customers.

TD

The five-year partnership with Google forms part of a wider shift at the UK's largest telecommunications company, which set up a [dedicated digital unit last year](#), tasked with creating innovative and data-driven products, platforms, and services.

BT will use a wide range of Google Cloud services, including infrastructure, machine learning (ML), analytics, security, and API management to power new products, reduce costs, lower risk and open new revenue streams.

BT Digital

The use of Google's AI and ML technologies will allow BT to make better, more data driven decisions and to deliver personalised customer experiences. Greater visibility will also make it easier to manage networks and predict faults before they happen.

The partners intend for it to be a collaboration rather than a supply deal, with Google Cloud's Site Reliability Engineering (SRE) working with BT Digital to create a culture of continuous delivery, automated operations, and accelerated development time.

> [BT uses Oracle tech to accelerate 5G service rollout](#)

> [Google and Dell offer new tools to help operators manage 5G and the edge](#)

> [Cisco touts simplicity and flexibility of its -as-a-service private 5G platform](#)

All of these desirable outcomes comprise a wider cultural shift at the company, which describes it as 'The Digital Way'. Digitisation is a priority for the telco industry as it seeks to expand the range of services it can offer customers, particularly businesses, and has seen growing convergence with the IT sector.

"Our partnership with Google is one of a series of strategic moves that BT Digital is taking to help accelerate BT's growth and digital transformation," said Harmeena Mehta, Chief Digital and Innovation Officer, BT. "This is a partnership that is deeper than just at the technology level. It will help Digital as a whole supercharge BT and drive its return to growth."

"We're proud to collaborate with one of the world's leading providers of communications services and play an integral part in its digital transformation journey," added Thomas Kurian, Google Cloud CEO. "By deploying our full cloud capabilities, and support from our SRE organisation, our goal in this partnership is to set up BT with the tools it needs for future growth and innovation."

Deployment has already started, with completion of the core migration of data set to be achieved by 2023.

* Here are the [best broadband deals](#) right now

[EE \(EE\)](#)

CO	btcom : BT Group PLC gognew : Google LLC goog : Alphabet Inc.
IN	i7902 : Telecommunication Services i3302022 : Artificial Intelligence Technologies iappsp : Cloud Computing i8394 : Computer Services ibcs : Business/Consumer Services idserv : Data Services iint : Online Service Providers itech : Technology i79021 : Wired Telecommunications Services i8395464 : Internet Search Engines
NS	cdbus : Digitalization cpartn : Partnerships/Collaborations ccat : Corporate/Industrial News
PUB	Future Publishing Ltd.
AN	Document TECHR00020220314ei3e000xi

HD **BT to open new office, contact centre facility in Cardiff**

WC 111 words

PD 14 March 2022

SN Telecompaper Europe

SC TELEUR

LA English

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LP

BT Group has announced a multi-million pound **investment** in a new office in Cardiff city centre. This will become a hub for up to 900 workers in the city and wider region.

BT employees will move into the new 65,000 sq ft office, located in the new Capital Quarter development, by end-2022. BT has selected Cardiff as a key location for its 'Better Workplace Programme'. The new facility will include workspace, collaboration areas, and a contact centre for customer service staff. The building will also have a 6th floor roof terrace, shower and changing facilities, and underground cycle parking.

CO btcom : BT Group PLC

IN i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i79021 : Wired Telecommunications Services

NS cprdp : Facility Openings | ccat : Corporate/Industrial News | c24 : Capacity/Facilities

RE wales : Wales | cardiff : Cardiff | eurz : Europe | uk : United Kingdom | weurz : Western Europe

PUB Telecompaper BV

AN Document TELEUR0020220314ei3e000jl

SE Topic -Wales
HD **BT investing in a new office hub in Cardiff for 900 staff**

BY By, Sion Barry
WC 804 words
PD 14 March 2022
ET 10:07
SN business-live.co.uk
SC BUSVE
LA English
CY © 2022 Reach plc

LP

The telecoms giant will invest millions creating a new hub for staff at the city centre 3 Capital Quarter building currently occupied by Admiral

Telecoms giant BT is creating a new office hub in the centre of Cardiff for up to 900 staff as part of a multi-million-pound **investment**.

TD

In the biggest office property deal in Wales this year, BT will occupy 65,000 sq ft of grade A office space at the 3 Capital Quarter office building in the centre of city.

The investment is part of its ongoing better workplace programme, which by 2024 will see its 300 locations focused on 30 UK hubs. Projects have already been confirmed in locations including Birmingham and London.

For its Cardiff hub it is taking space being vacated by FTSE 100 insurance to loans group Admiral, which is exiting part of its office portfolio across South Wales as part of a permanent hybrid working model.

BT staff will move into the new hub by year end. The office building, which forms part of the wider Capital Quarter development is owned by property investor Mayfair Capital. It acquired the freehold interest from developer of the wider Capital Quarter scheme, JR Smart, two years ago.

Brent Mathews, BT's director of property and facilities services, said: "We're really pleased to have agreed this exciting new office space in the centre of Cardiff. Despite the economic challenges and changes to working patterns caused by the pandemic, we think this is an important investment and it secures our presence in the capital of Wales and the wider region.

"This will bring our people together in an impressive and modern environment in Cardiff's developing Capital Quarter. Our new offices reflect a move to more hybrid and flexible ways of working, with colleagues able to come together, using the latest technologies, to collaborate in inspiring workspaces. It will help us attract and retain brilliant people and we look forward to welcoming colleagues into this great new workspace when it's ready later this year."

As well as a location for existing BT staff in the city it will also act as a regional hub for colleagues, as well as its at arm's length engineering venture Openreach. The vast majority of staff will work on a hybrid basis.

BT will now enter in a consultation with staff on its hub plans, as we reviewing its existing office space in the city, including Stadium House next to the Principality Stadium.

BT had already adopted a flexible working policy prior to the pandemic. It said it couldn't say at this stage whether the new hub could support any new roles.

The new operation at 3 Capital Quarter will include smart building technology, flexible workspaces and collaboration areas. It also features a sixth floor roof terrace, underground cycle parking and shower and changing facilities.

Rhyddian Morris, director of the Cardiff office of property advisory firm JLL advised BT on the deal with Huw Thomas of Huw Thomas Commercial Property Consultancy advising Admiral.

Huw Thomas, leader of Cardiff City Council, said: "This announcement by BT is a big vote of confidence in the city and in our plans for the future.

"I'm pleased that BT sees Cardiff as a good place to invest and to continue recruiting its present and future workforce. This is good for skilled jobs, for the city and the wider region. The Central Cardiff Enterprise Zone was developed for this reason, to attract new investment, create new high quality workspaces and attract good, sustainable jobs."

Head of property for Admiral, Huw Llewellyn, said: "As part of our ongoing property strategy and office consolidation given our commitment to hybrid working, we are delighted that such a high quality tenant in BT Group will be taking on our Capital Quarter office space. We would like to thank JR Smart and family for their continued support, and our landlord and agent, Huw Thomas Huw Thomas Commercial Property Consultancy and Rhydian Morris JLL

"We're excited by the opportunities a more flexible, hybrid approach brings us, where colleagues can spend time working both at home, and together as teams in our offices working collaboratively. There's no doubt that the flexibility of approach will help us attract and retain the top talent in the market and that's important as we think about the future of our business."

Both parties wouldn't comment on whether Admiral has assigned its lease to BT, or whether a subletting deal has been struck.

BT Group remains one of Wales's leading employers and according to independent research its activities contribute almost £1bn to the Welsh economy gross value added and support more than 12,000 jobs.

CO btcom : BT Group PLC

IN i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i79021 : Wired Telecommunications Services

NS ccat : Corporate/Industrial News | cprdrop : Facility Openings | c24 : Capacity/Facilities

RE wales : Wales | cardi : Cardiff | eurz : Europe | uk : United Kingdom | weurz : Western Europe

PUB Local World (Reach Plc)

AN Document BUSVE00020220314ei3e000p2

SE online news
HD **Razer's New Streaming Hardware Lets Streamers Unleash Their Full Creativity**
WC 1,222 words
PD 14 March 2022
SN ETMAG.com
SC FMETMA
LA English
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LP

Razer, the leading global lifestyle brand for gamers, has expanded its range of streaming products with the new Razer Seiren BT microphone, Razer Audio Mixer and Razer Key Light Chroma. These new streaming peripherals bring more creativity and flexibility to **content** creators and mobile streamers, with professional quality wireless audio, live on-stream audio mixing, and infinitely flexible, adaptive lighting for more engaging, creative stream set-ups.

TD

While the Audio Mixer and Key Light Chroma are aimed at desktop streamers, the wireless Seiren BT microphone is specially designed for smartphone streamers for IRL (In Real Life) mobile streaming. With its small form factor and superior audio pick-up, the Seiren BT elevates mobile streams with rich, clear voice audio, bringing a new dimension of freedom to IRL streaming. "Until now, IRL streamers have needed to use a wired microphone to deliver clear audio to their viewers, limiting how much they can move around or change the view from their mobile, especially in noisy outdoor environments," said Richard Hashim, Head of Razer's Mobile & Console Division. "Now, with the Seiren BT, IRL streamers have complete freedom of movement, holding their mobile wherever they want to capture the shot, without cables getting in the way, to give their viewers a rich, engaging experience with even, balanced audio levels."

Razer Seiren BT: Vocal clarity, anywhere Connecting via Bluetooth and compatible with the most popular mobile streaming apps, the wireless Seiren BT gives complete freedom of movement to the streamer, delivering rich, warm voice tones, via the omnidirectional microphone and powerful noise suppression software.

By using the Seiren BT, IRL streamers can get creative with their stream, using selfie-sticks and other mounts, without the worry of getting tangled in wires. The Seiren BT uses a simple clip-on design, letting the streamer use expansive, wide-angle shots, and frame themselves away from their mobile while maintaining clear on-stream audio.

Whether it's strong winds or noisy crowds, the Seiren BT microphone intelligently filters out background noise from indoor or outdoor environments, with a simple high/low suppression option, via the accompanying Razer Streaming Mobile App. Supplied with indoor and outdoor windsocks, the Seiren BT is the perfect single-device solution for IRL streamers looking to elevate their content with consistent audio clarity, anywhere they choose to stream.

The Seiren BT is the latest addition of Razer's professional grade microphone products, which includes the Seiren V2 Pro, Seiren V2 X and Seiren Mini.

For more information on the Razer Seiren BT, please see [here](#).

Razer Audio Mixer: Combined audio control The new Razer Audio Mixer is a single-box solution, made for streaming, with a range of direct inputs and a centralized, powerful audio mixing software stack, bringing new levels of control and live mixing to desktop streamers. This level of control traditionally requires a complex, cumbersome and expensive multi-device set-up - but the Razer Audio Mixer brings everything into one easy-to-use, simple to set up, fully customizable 4 channel analog mixer.

48 V The Razer Audio Mixer allows streamers to control multiple audio sources on-the-fly, balancing the volume levels between sources, muting channels as needed and even adding vocal effects to enhance their streams. This level of control is simple and easy to set-up, making it accessible to every streamer

regardless of technical expertise, thanks to the direct input support for the most commonly used audio connections, including hybrid-XLR (with 48 V Phantom Power), TRS Line In and Out, Optical TOS and more.

The powerful Razer Audio Mixer software is a centralized audio mixing software suite, fully integrated into Razer Synapse 3 and supports all digital audio output sources, including game sound, system, chat, and music sources. Through Razer Synapse 3, users can access a range of audio adjustment options, from software-based noise gate and EQ functions through to reverb and voice changers. Each audio source can be balanced, mixed and mapped to the hardware functions on the Audio Mixer, with the audio settings and processing offloaded to the Audio Mixers onboard processor, freeing up system resources on the PC.

The Razer Audio Mixer takes the hassle out of professional quality streaming audio, simplifying the set-up with direct inputs, giving the user full control over their audio sources, channel mixes, effects and microphone settings. By supporting both analog and digital sound sources, with source tuning, per channel mixing and live fading, muting and effects, streamers now have a one-box solution able to cope with almost any combination of hardware and software sources, making the Razer Audio Mixer the must-have device for upcoming broadcasters.

For more information on the Razer Audio Mixer, please see [here](#).

Razer Key Light Chroma: The key to professional lighting The Razer Key Light Chroma is an all-in-one solution powered by Razer Chroma RGB, bringing infinitely variable lighting to desktop streamers, allowing them to create unique, engaging, and interactive streams painted with light. Controlled through the Razer Streaming App or Razer Synapse 3, streamers can access a range of lighting presets, syncing their lighting to other Chroma RGB compatible devices, and even syncing with stream notifications, for a range of effects, making their streams unique.

For more creative streams, the Key Light Chroma can display up to 16.8 million colors, bringing modifiable lighting to streaming, to set the mood and encourage audience interaction with lighting that reacts to viewer emotes, alerts, shout-outs and more. In addition to Razer Chroma RGB, the Razer Key Light Chroma pushes out up to 2800 Lumens, with a white temperature range of 3000k to 7000k, bright enough for any stream set-up, including full room lighting for VR streamers.

The Razer Key Light Chroma is supplied with a desk clamp mounted pole, topped with a ¼" screw ball joint. Mounting holes on each side of the panel allow the Key Light Chroma to be positioned both in landscape and portrait, with the ball joint allowing the panel to be angled as needed. For room flooding, the pole extends up to 1.3 m from the desk surface and can be retracted to stand at 55 cm above the desk for face lighting.

Powered by a 52.5 W power adapter, the Razer Key Light Chroma is both Wi-Fi and Bluetooth enabled, giving the user the flexibility to control their lighting from either Razer Synapse 3 or from the Razer Streaming Mobile App.

For more information on the Razer Key Light Chroma, please see [here](#).

The Seiren BT, Audio Mixer, Key Light Chroma and accompanying Streaming Mobile App are the latest additions to Razer's popular streaming peripheral range. The Seiren BT brings complete freedom of movement to mobile streaming, while the Audio Mixer and Key Light Chroma bring greater flexibility and creativity to desktop streamers and broadcasters. With a comprehensive range of microphones, cameras and accessories, the Razer streaming range features products suitable for every streamer and content creator.

Razer Seiren BT \$99.99 USD / 109,99€ MSRP Razer.com & Authorized Retailers - March 10th, 2022
Razer Key Light Chroma \$299.99 USD / 299,99€ MSRP Razer.com & Authorized Retailers - March 10th, 2022
Razer Audio Mixer \$249.99 USD / 259,99€ MSRP Razer.com & Authorized Retailers - March 10th, 2022

CO btcom : BT Group PLC | razeul : Razer Inc. | cvccap : CVC Capital Partners

IN imed : Media/Entertainment | i3302 : Computers/Consumer Electronics | i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i79021 : Wired Telecommunications Services | icomp : Computing | icper : Computer Peripherals | icph : Computer Hardware | itech : Technology

NS gptech : Personal Technology | glife : Living/Lifestyle | gcat : Political/General News

PUB Eurotrade (HK) Ltd.

AN Document FMETMA0020220314ei3e0000c

HD **BT BRANDS to Participate in the 2022 Virtual Growth Conference Presented by Maxim Group LLC and Hosted by M-Vest on March 28th - 30th from 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. EDT**

WC 525 words

PD 11 March 2022

SN ACCESSWIRE

SC ACWIRE

LA English

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LP

WEST FARGO, ND / ACCESSWIRE / March 11, 2022 / BT Brands, Inc. (NASDAQ:BTBD), announced today that Company would be making its initial **investment** conference presentation at the 2022 Virtual Growth Conference, presented by Maxim Group LLC and hosted by M-Vest, on March 28th - 30th from 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. EDT.

Image: <https://www.accesswire.com/users/newswire/images/692740/BT.gif> [Sign up here to access the presentation](#)

TD

During this virtual conference, investors will hear from executives from a wide range of sectors, including Biotech, Clean Energy, Electric Vehicles, Financial Services, Fintech & REITS, Gaming & Entertainment, Healthcare, Healthcare IT, Infrastructure, Shipping and Technology/ Media/Telecom. The conference will feature company presentations, fireside chats, roundtable discussions, and live Q&A with CEOs moderated by Maxim Research Analysts.

This conference will be live on M-Vest. To attend, sign up to become an M-Vest member.

[Click Here to Reserve your seat](#)

About BT Brands Restaurants Inc.: BT Brands Restaurants Inc. (BTBD) owns operates fast-food restaurants called Burger Time. Following its November 2021 public offering, the Company is seeking acquisitions within the restaurant industry and this month announced the acquisition of Keegan's Seafood Grille in Indian Rocks Beach, Florida. The Company also operates one unit in Minnesota as a franchisee of International Dairy Queen. The Company operates three Burger Time locations in Minnesota, four in North Dakota, and two in South Dakota.

Forward-Looking Statements Disclaimer:

This press release contains forward-looking statements within the meaning of federal securities laws. The words "intend," "may," "believe," "will," "should," "anticipate," "expect," "seek," and similar expressions are intended to identify forward-looking statements. These statements involve known and unknown risks, which may cause the Company's actual results to differ materially from results expressed or implied by the forward-looking statements. These risks include such factors as the disruption to our business from the COVID-19 pandemic and the impact on our results of operations, financial condition, and prospects which may vary depending on the impact on customer behavior, the impact and duration of possible staffing constraints at our restaurants, the uncertain nature of current restaurant development plans and our ability to implement integrate new restaurants, delays in developing and opening new restaurants because of weather, local permitting or other reasons, increased competition, cost increases or shortages in raw food products, and other matters discussed under the Risk Factors section of the BT Brands' Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended January 3, 2021, filed with the SEC, and other filings with the SEC. BT Brands disclaims any obligation or duty to update or modify these forward-looking statements.

Contact:

Kenneth Brimmer, COO

612-41-5104

SOURCE: BT Brands, Inc.

View source version on [accesswire.com](https://www.accesswire.com):

<https://www.accesswire.com/692740/BT-BRANDS-to-Participate-in-the-2022-Virtual-Growth-Conference-Presented-by-Maxim-Group-LLC-and-Hosted-by-M-Vest-on-March-28th--30th-from-900-am--500-pm-EDT>

CO jhffzy : BT Brands Inc. | maximg : Maxim Group, LLC | btcom : BT Group PLC

IN i6611 : Full-service Restaurants | i66 : Lodgings/Restaurants/Bars | i661 : Restaurants/Cafes/Fast Food Places | ilea : Leisure/Arts/Hospitality | i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i79021 : Wired Telecommunications Services | i814 : Banking | i831 : Financial Investment Services | i83101 : Investment Banking | ibnk : Banking/Credit | ifinal : Financial Services | iinv : Investing/Securities

NS ccat : Corporate/Industrial News | c315 : Conferences/Exhibitions | npress : Press Releases | ncat : Content Types

RE usa : United States | namz : North America

IPD NASDAQ:BTBDW

PUB Accesswire

AN Document ACWIRE0020220311ei3b002jp

HD Openreach joins Greater Birmingham Chamber of Commerce

WC 78 words

PD 11 March 2022

SN Telecompaper Europe

SC TELEUR

LA English

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LP

Openreach has formally joined the Greater Birmingham Chamber of Commerce (GBCC). The company has more than 3,200 employees across the region, including 650 at their new Snowhill offices in the city, with 300 more engineers to be added in 2022.

The moves comes after Openreach announced a GBP 47 million broadband **investment** in February to expand its full-**fibre** broadband network to 160,000 additional premises across the West Midlands.

CO btcom : BT Group PLC

IN i98205 : Professional Bodies | ibcs : Business/Consumer Services | i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i79021 : Wired Telecommunications Services

NS ccat : Corporate/Industrial News

RE eurz : Europe

PUB Telecompaper BV

AN Document TELEUR0020220311ei3b000gp

HD BT selects Google Cloud to support group-wide digital transformation

BY Sabina Weston

WC 446 words

PD 10 March 2022

SN Cloud Pro

SC CLPRO

LA English

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LP

BT has selected Google Cloud for a five-year partnership that will support the telecom giant's plan for company-wide digital transformation and the creation of new services.

The project, led by BT's Digital unit, will introduce a range of Google Cloud products and services: from cloud infrastructure and data analytics, to artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML), as well as security and API management.

TD

BT said it hopes to use these tools to deliver improved customer experience, as well as reduce costs and risk, and build new revenue streams.

BT launched its Digital unit in January 2021 with the aim of developing and delivering products and platforms for the healthcare and data sectors, with solutions such as cloud-based unified communications (UC) and collaboration services. However, its digital transformation work can be traced back to 2016, when BT revealed its Digital Possible initiative that offered CIOs assistance in adopting digital transformation in their organisations.

However, the unit has also been tasked with internal overhauls, including transforming the state of BT's overall IT and digital innovation, and will lead the changes set out under the Google Cloud partnership. This includes creating a group-wide data strategy built on artificial intelligence (AI), and a new strategy to overhaul product development based on continuous innovation and automation.

Commenting on the announcement, BT chief digital and innovation officer Harmeen Mehta described the Google Cloud partnership as "one of a series of strategic moves that BT Digital is taking to help accelerate BT's growth and digital transformation".

"This is a partnership that is deeper than just at the technology level. It will help Digital as a whole supercharge BT and drive its return to growth," he added.

YouTube

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I-adrlB_sqI

Google Cloud CEO Thomas Kurian said that the tech giant is "proud to collaborate with one of the world's leading providers of communications services and play an integral part in its digital transformation journey".

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The care and feeding of cloud

"By deploying our full cloud capabilities, and support from our SRE organisation, our goal in this partnership is to set up BT with the tools it needs for future growth and innovation," he added.

Google Cloud and BT have already begun working together on adopting Google's technology, with the migration of core data scheduled to be finalised by 2023.

The news comes eight months after BT and Google announced a security partnership that saw the UK operator roll out new Google Cloud products to the managed security services market.

[Click to view image.](#)

CO btcom : BT Group PLC | gognew : Google LLC | goog : Alphabet Inc.

IN i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i3302022 : Artificial Intelligence Technologies | itech : Technology | iappsp : Cloud Computing | i8394 : Computer Services | ibcs : Business/Consumer Services | idserv : Data Services | iint : Online Service Providers | i79021 : Wired Telecommunications Services | i8395464 : Internet Search Engines

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PUB Future Publishing Ltd.

AN Document CLPRO00020220310ei3a00001

HD BT to collaborate with GoogleCloud on digital transformation

BY Saf Malik

WC 289 words

PD 10 March 2022

SN Capacity Magazine

SC CAPMAG

LA English

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LP

BT is currently in the process of a digital transformation project through its BT Digital unit, and this involves creating a group-wide data and AI fabric as part of its cloud-first and AI-first strategy.

The five-year deal will see BT using a suite of GoogleCloud products and services including cloud infrastructure, machine learning and artificial intelligence, data analytics and security to reduce costs and risk while also building new revenue streams.

TD

Under the partnership, BT will “unlock” new business use-cases which the company says will strengthen its ambitions around digital offerings and create hyper-personalised customer engagement.

“Our partnership with Google is one of a series of strategic moves that BT Digital is taking to help accelerate BT's growth and digital transformation,” Harmeen Mehta, chief digital and innovation officer at BT said.

“This is a partnership that is deeper than just at the technology level. It will help [BT] Digital as a whole supercharge BT and drive its return to growth.”

Additionally, Google's SRE team will partner BT to foster a continuous delivery and “zero ops” autonomous operations culture to accelerate product development.

The two firms have already started working together on adopting Google technology and plan to complete the core migration of data by 2023.

“We're proud to collaborate with one of the world's leading providers of communications services and play an integral part in its digital transformation journey,” said Thomas Kurian, CEO at Google Cloud.

“By deploying our full cloud capabilities, and support from our SRE organisation, our goal in this partnership is to set up BT with the tools it needs for future growth and innovation.”

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AN Document CAPMAG0020220328ei3a0000m

SE digital transformation
HD **BT selects GoogleCloud to support group-wide digital transformation**

BY Sabina Weston

WC 426 words

PD 10 March 2022

SN IT Pro

SC ITREN

LA English

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TD

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IPD digital transformation

PUB Future Publishing Ltd.

AN Document ITREN00020220310ei3a00003

HD Google**Cloud** and BT announce strategic, five-year partnership

WC 402 words

PD 10 March 2022

ET 00:00

SN MarketLine News and Comment

SC DTMNTR

LA English

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LP

Google**Cloud** and BT have signed a strategic, five-year partnership to accelerate BT's company-wide digital transformation.

The collaboration will involve BT using a suite of Google**Cloud** products and services—including **cloud** infrastructure, **machine learning** (ML) and artificial intelligence (**AI**), **data analytics**, security, and API management—to deliver superior customer experiences, reduce costs and risk, and build new revenue streams.

TD

BT is undertaking a massive digital transformation through its BT Digital unit, and this initiative includes creating a group-wide data and AI fabric as part of its cloud-first and AI-first strategy. Under the partnership, the two companies will help BT unlock hundreds of new business use-cases to strengthen its ambitions around digital offerings and creating hyper-personalised customer engagement.

BT's data transformation is centred around driving business outcomes and using AI and deep ML across the organisation to allow businesses and customers to make more data-led decisions, as well as creating deeper personalisation for customer offerings and new go-to-market propositions. This will also enable BT to have real-time network analytics to allow for a more enhanced customer service through predictive fault management and assurance.

In addition, Google's SRE team will partner with BT to foster a continuous delivery and "zero ops" autonomous operations culture to accelerate product development and continuous innovation as part of the new culture of working that BT calls "The Digital Way."

"Our partnership with Google is one of a series of strategic moves that BT Digital is taking to help accelerate BT's growth and digital transformation. This is a partnership that is deeper than just at the technology level. It will help Digital as a whole supercharge BT and drive its return to growth," said Harmeen Mehta, Chief Digital and Innovation Officer, BT.

"We're proud to collaborate with one of the world's leading providers of communications services and play an integral part in its digital transformation journey," said Thomas Kurian, CEO at Google Cloud. "By deploying our full cloud capabilities, and support from our SRE organisation, our goal in this partnership is to set up BT with the tools it needs for future growth and innovation."

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RF 3FB69D70-2556-4064-A37F-A3804FF8C841

CO btcom : BT Group PLC | gognew : Google LLC | goog : Alphabet Inc.

IN i3302022 : Artificial Intelligence Technologies | i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i330202 : Software | iappsp : Cloud Computing | i3302 : Computers/Consumer Electronics | i8394 : Computer Services | ibcs : Business/Consumer Services | icomp : Computing | idserv : Data Services | iint : Online Service Providers | itech : Technology | i79021 : Wired Telecommunications Services | i8395464 : Internet Search Engines

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PUB Progressive Digital Media Ltd

AN Document DTMNTR0020220312ei3a0003o

SE Consumer
HD **Co. Antrim online bakery finds the recipe for success**

BY Claire Cartmill

WC 646 words

PD 10 March 2022

SN Belfast News Letter

SC BELNEL

LA English

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LP

A Ballyclare-based bakery has built a successful online business using the power of digital technology.

Ooh & Aah Cookies, which offers personalised baked goods to customers across the UK and Ireland, has benefitted from Openreach Northern Ireland's full **fibre** build across the region.

TD

The award-winning bakery, which is the first of its kind in the UK to offer letterbox-friendly seven-inch cookies, has amassed a loyal social media following of over 35,000 with their unique and personalised products.

Established in 2015, Ooh & Aah Cookies founders Barbara-Anne McMullan and Ruth Armstrong have a team of eight who manage orders, co-ordinate delivery, communicate with customers and promote their products online, making fast and reliable broadband essential to the business's success.

Having previously relied on a wifi dongle to run their business, Ooh & Aah Cookies moved their premises to Co. Antrim in October 2021 and were upgraded to Ultrafast Full Fibre broadband across the Openreach network.

Ooh & Aah founder Ruth, said: "The difference full fibre broadband has made to our business is outstanding. The speed and reliability we have experienced has improved our efficiency massively and processes that previously took longer due to slow network speed can now be completed much quicker, freeing up staff's time to be more productive in other areas of the business."

From monitoring the website to processing orders, ordering stock and communicating with customers, Ooh & Aah's entire business model is reliant on having access to a decent broadband connection.

Discussing the impact of full fibre on their business, Barbara-Anne explained: "Having a reliable broadband service allows us to directly reach our target audience using online advertising and communicate with them on a personal level, as well as regularly monitor campaign progress.

"Being accessible 24/7 via our website and social media allows us to be found by anyone, anywhere in the world."

Ruth continued: "Being able to connect with business clients from all over the UK and RoI has allowed us to establish ourselves as a trustworthy market-leading corporate gifting brand.

"Although we currently ship to customers throughout the UK and RoI, we have future plans to ship further afield which will be made possible through the use of full fibre broadband. It is integral to who we are and what we do."

At the heart of greater digital technology is having robust infrastructure in place that can cope with increasing demands and the continued development of new, data-hungry technologies and Openreach is leading the charge in ensuring the region has a future-proof broadband network capable of meeting these demands - now and for decades to come.

As Northern Ireland's largest digital infrastructure provider, Openreach is delivering an ambitious network build programme in the region and bringing Ultrafast Full Fibre broadband technology to homes and businesses at pace. As a result, more than 75% of all premises in the region can now access Ultrafast Full Fibre broadband on the Openreach network - that's broadband which is 10 times faster* and 5 times more reliable than the current national average.

Speaking about the impact of ultrafast full fibre on local businesses, Openreach NI director Garret Kavanagh, added: "We are delighted to hear about the impact Openreach NI's build programme has had across local businesses in Northern Ireland such as Ooh & Aah Cookies.

"The build has already enabled 75% of NI to access full fibre broadband - this is game-changing for local businesses in allowing them to operate, grow and thrive."

"I want to commend the Ooh & Aah team for the hard work and time they have dedicated to building the success of their local business and am proud of the small role Openreach NI has played in that success. I wish them all the very best in the future."

CO btcom : BT Group PLC
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NS gcat : Political/General News
RE uk : United Kingdom | eurz : Europe | weurz : Western Europe
IPD Consumer
PUB JPIMedia Limited
AN Document BELNEL0020220310ei3a000bg

HD CBOS issues new regulations for imports

WC 155 words

PD 10 March 2022

SN Sudan News Agency (SUNA)

SC SUDNWA

LA English

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Khartoum, March 10 (SUNA) - The Central Bank of Sudan (CBOS) issued today new regulations for imports according to which it was allowed to use all **payment** methods except for the advance **payment**, exempting import of medicines, medical supplies, raw materials for industry and packaging materials for medicines, besides goods whose contracts include a condition of paying part in advance.

The regulations stipulated that 70% of the proceeds of free gold and gold of residue companies shall be used to import strategic goods- medicines, wheat, petroleum products and production inputs- while 30% of gold proceeds shall be used for necessary commodities after approval from the Ministry of Trade.

TD

It also allowed the use of the client's own resources "free accounts" to import all permitted goods, provided that the importer pays the entire import value in advance and with a cash margin of 100%.

BT/BT

[Click to view image](#)

CO bnksud : Central Bank of Sudan | btcom : BT Group PLC

IN i372 : Medical Equipment/Supplies | i257 : Pharmaceuticals | i951 : Healthcare/Life Sciences | i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i79021 : Wired Telecommunications Services

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IPD news

PUB Sudan News Agency

AN Document SUDNWA0020220311ei3a00004



HD BT and GoogleCloud form strategic partnership

WC 411 words

PD 10 March 2022

SN Optical Networks Daily

SC OBSERV

LA English

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GoogleCloud and BT announced a strategic, five-year partnership to accelerate BT's company-wide digital transformation. The collaboration will involve BT using a suite of GoogleCloud products and services—including cloud infrastructure, machine learning (ML) and artificial intelligence (AI), data analytics, security, and API management—to deliver superior customer experiences, reduce costs and risk, and build new revenue streams. The companies plan to complete a core migration of data by 2023.

In addition, Google's SRE team will partner with BT to foster a continuous delivery and "zero ops" autonomous operations culture to accelerate product development and continuous innovation as part of the new culture of working that BT calls "The Digital Way."

TD

"Our partnership with Google is one of a series of strategic moves that BT Digital is taking to help accelerate BT's growth and digital transformation. This is a partnership that is deeper than just at the technology level. It will help Digital as a whole supercharge BT and drive its return to growth," said Harmeen Mehta, Chief Digital and Innovation Officer, BT.

"We're proud to collaborate with one of the world's leading providers of communications services and play an integral part in its digital transformation journey," said Thomas Kurian, CEO at Google Cloud. "By deploying our full cloud capabilities, and support from our SRE organisation, our goal in this partnership is to set up BT with the tools it needs for future growth and innovation."

[BT to implement Rackspace Fabric for multi-cloud services](#)

Thursday, January 20, 2022 [BT](#), [Rackspace](#)

BT and Rackspace Technology announced a partnership focused on multicloud management and optimization. Under the terms of the agreement, BT hybrid cloud services will be based on Rackspace Technology's solutions, including its Rackspace Fabric management layer. Rackspace supports four primary technology stacks: AWS, Microsoft Azure, Google Cloud Platform and VMware. Rackspace Fabric is a single platform for consistent, automated cloud services,...

[READ MORE](#)

[Why Service Assurance is Vital to our Multi-Cloud Future](#)

Tuesday, November 16, 2021 [BT](#), [Service Assurance](#), [Video](#)

<https://youtu.be/MoglRmOW6m0> Going forward, service assurance is vital for personal and business communications, says Chet Patel, BT's Chief Commercial Officer and President, BT Americas. Continuous investment is needed, especially in AI, automation, and analytics, to ensure the best customer experience. Here is a 1-minute perspective from San Francisco. Download the 2021 Service Assurance Report here: <https://ngi.how/sa-2...>

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NS cpartn : Partnerships/Collaborations | cdbus : Digitalization | c23 : Research/Development | ccat : Corporate/Industrial News

IPD BT

PUB Electronics International

AN Document OBSERV0020220311ei3a00005

HD **Cloud-first, AI-first: BT selects Google Cloud for strategic shift**

BY by Harry Baldock, Total Telecom

WC 403 words

PD 10 March 2022

SN Total Telecom Plus

SC TOTEL

LA English

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The UK incumbent says the partnership will help it to increase the use of **AI** and **data analytics**, as well as opening the door for the creation of new customer services

TD

Today, BT has announced a new five-year deal with Google Cloud, aiming to leverage the latter's AI and cloud expertise to foster a new company culture BT calls 'The Digital Way'. According to the press release, the partnership will include a wide range of products and services, including cloud infrastructure, machine learning (ML) and artificial intelligence (AI), data analytics, security, and API management. In turn, these technologies should allow BT to offer customers more personalised experiences, improve business efficiencies, and allow for the introduction of new revenue streams. The work will be overseen by BT Digital, a new arm of the business created last year and headed up by BT's Chief Digital and Innovation Officer, Harmeen Mehta. "Our partnership with Google is one of a series of strategic moves that BT Digital is taking to help accelerate BT's growth and digital transformation. This is a partnership that is deeper than just at the technology level. It will help Digital as a whole supercharge BT and drive its return to growth," said Mehta. As part of the deal, Google's Site Reliability Engineering (SRE) team will also partner with BT to help the operator roll out autonomous operations and develop new cloud-based services for customers. BT's data migration to Google Cloud has already begun, with the company aiming to have finished the process by 2023. This is not the only telco to shake hands with Google Cloud this year. Late last month, Finnish telco Elisa also announced its own partnership with the hyperscaler, aiming to build Google Cloud into its hybrid cloud offering. Are the UK operators embracing the public cloud or is private or hybrid cloud a better choice? Find out from the operators at this year's live Connected Britain conference Want to keep up to date with the latest developments in the world of telecoms? Subscriber to receive Total Telecom's daily newsletter here Also in the news: What's in a name? Telecom industry's leading brands in 2022 How we're bringing connectivity to more of Britain for our emergency services Orange and MasMovil talk €20bn tie-up in Spain

RF 512745

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RE uk : United Kingdom | eurz : Europe | weurz : Western Europe

IPD Press

PUB Terrapinn Limited

AN Document TOTEL00020220310ei3a00007

HD Google will do the thinking for BT in future

BY Iain Morris

WC 973 words

PD 10 March 2022

SN Light Reading

SC LITEREAD

LA English

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LP

Fittingly, this year's Mobile World Congress was more or less bookended by deals between operators and their public **cloud** frenemies. As the show opened, Finland's Elisa emerged as a new consort of Google, gushing about the Internet giant's artificial intelligence (**AI**) and **cloud** expertise. This morning, the UK's BT plopped down alongside Elisa in Google's ever-expanding telco harem.

Unlike Elisa, it is not (yet) considering whether to host network functions inside Google **Cloud**. BT's executives have publicly resisted this type of arrangement without going so far as to rule it out entirely in future. "It doesn't make sense to inject someone else's **cloud platform** into our buildings," said Mark Henry, BT's technology and business strategy director, during a press conference last month. "We don't see the benefit of putting AWS in there to run network functions. But we are constantly looking at it."

TD

[Click here to view Figure 1.](#)

For now, the partnership seems to be largely about data analytics. Judging by the contents of the companies' statement, it means BT will eventually rely on the Internet company to crunch the network numbers and figure out next steps. Service plans could be more effectively tailored to customer needs. Potential faults could be identified (and dealt with) before they lead to outages. Google would essentially become BT's brain, making the decisions previously left to humans.

There are probably huge implications for staff, then. The companies' statement skirts around this with the usual euphemistic language, referring to a "zero ops autonomous operations culture" that Google's SRE team will foster within BT. SRE stands for "site reliability engineering," by the way, and is "what you get when you treat operations as if it's a software problem," according to a Google website that features pictures of the friendly-looking Google engineers who will presumably help to relieve BT of manual effort.

No alarms and no surprises

None of this should come as a massive surprise to BT workers. CEO Philip Jansen was evidently horrified to see BT's ugly mishmash of outdated systems when he took charge in 2019, calling out the offending IT systems on earnings calls with analysts. Some 14 million customers were still using the PSTN 16 years after BT's launch of 21CN, an all-Internet Protocol network that was supposed to replace it. TV sports was the only BT service that was fully automated.

His response was partly to set up a new unit, BT Digital, responsible for the operator's transformation into a more streamlined, Internet-age outfit. Among the corporate goals announced was realizing annual gross savings of about GB pound 1 billion (\$1.3 billion) by March 2023 and GB pound 2 billion (\$2.6 billion) by March 2025 (including changes on the network side). Joining from India's Bharti Airtel, Harmeen Mehta was hired as the chief digital and innovation officer in charge of this unit.

And what do telco innovation officers do these days? They strike deals with more innovative web players, of course. Mehta's name is all over the latest press release, where she unashamedly notes that Google will "help accelerate BT's growth and digital transformation." Innovation is being outsourced, in this case.

How deep could staff cuts go? Along with other service providers, BT has already been ejecting employees for several years. In 2016, just after its takeover of EE (a UK mobile operator), it employed 106,416 people in total, according to accounts. The figure had dropped to 99,218 at the end of September. But many of those cuts were aimed at ridding BT of excess managers, people whose weeks are filled with inconsequential meetings and long lunches, rather than operations staff.

Want to know more about 5G? Check out our [dedicated 5G content channel](#) here on Light Reading.

Unsurprisingly, then, it remains the least productive big telco in Europe or the US on the basis of revenues per employee, a metric investors now consider when assessing fitness for the so-called digital economy. In 2020, it made about \$300,000 in per-employee sales, compared with Vodafone Group's \$550,000 and Telecom Italia's \$370,000. Both those operators have downsized more dramatically, although the divestment of business units looks partly responsible. Headcount has fallen by 15% at Telecom Italia and 13% at Vodafone since 2016, compared with the 7% drop seen at BT.

Vodafone, intriguingly, already seems to have a similar deal with Google, and it has been more forthcoming on the details. Until 2019, it was using a on-premises data platform for insights about its business in 11 countries. That relied on 600 servers and an open source tool called Hadoop, but it was not up to the big data challenge. Branded Neuron, its Google-built replacement pools all Vodafone's data in a single "data ocean" within Google's public cloud.

All BT and Google have said on the mechanics of their data arrangement is that they "plan to complete the core migration of data by 2023." Pressed for more information, a representative said core, in this context, meant "our most important and useful customer, product, service and usage data."

The implication, though, is that two of the UK's big network operators may be entrusting key information and decision-making based on it to US Big Tech. What could possibly go wrong?

Related posts:

* [Vodafone puts its faith in Google Cloud for big data analytics](#)

* [BT has yet another crack at digital transformation](#)

* [Elisa moves closer to being powered by Google](#)

* [BT shifts 5G focus to the 'heavy lifting' job of standalone](#)

* ['Real AI' & Racist Robots Preoccupy Telco Tech Heads](#)

- Iain Morris, International Editor, [Light Reading](#)

CT morris@lightreading.com

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IPD Topics

PUB Light Reading

AN Document LITEREAD20220310ei3a0005p

HD EE, BT Sport unveil new 5G-powered immersive viewing experiences

WC 195 words

PD 10 March 2022

SN Telecompaper Europe

SC TELEUR

LA English

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LP

EE and BT Sport have announced new sports and performing arts viewing experiences based on 5G and extended reality. The project is part of the DCMS's 5G Create programme. The new experiences were unveiled at the home of Saracens rugby club in London, with the demos supported by BT Media & Broadcast's TV OB service.

The new prototypes allow users to take control and engage in events from any angle, using smartphones, tablets, TVs and **AR** headsets. For example, rugby fans can get real-time **AR** insights into game data such as kick distances and ball trajectories; boxing fans can use immersive holographic videos to bring fight nights into their homes; and dancers, musicians and other performers can remotely engage with, teach and demonstrate to students and fans; all powered by the EE **5G network**.

TD

The prototypes are the first results of the EG Edge-XR project, led by EE and BT Sport, to demonstrate how 5G can help consumers engage with events in new, immersive ways. Other project partners include the University of Bristol, Salsa Sound, DanceEast, Condense Reality and The Grid Factory.

CO btcom : BT Group PLC

IN i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i79021 : Wired Telecommunications Services

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PUB Telecompaper BV

AN Document TELEUR0020220310ei3a000md

HD **BRIEF-BT Selects Google Cloud As Strategic Partner For Group-Wide Data And AI Transformation**

WC 48 words

PD 10 March 2022

ET 11:05

SN Reuters News

SC LBA

LA English

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March 10 (Reuters) - BT Group PLC:

* BT - BT SELECTS GOOGLE **CLOUD** AS STRATEGIC PARTNER FOR GROUP-WIDE DATA AND **AI** TRANSFORMATION Source text for Eikon: Further company coverage:

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IPD Business

IPC SERVICE:RNP

PUB Reuters News & Media Inc.

AN Document LBA0000020220310ei3a0245p

HD BT appoints Google **Cloud** as data, **AI** transformation partner

WC 123 words

PD 10 March 2022

SN Telecompaper Europe

SC TELEUR

LA English

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BT and Google **Cloud** have announced a 5-year partnership to accelerate BT's groupwide digital transformation. The agreement sees Google **Cloud** become BT's strategic partner for data and **AI** transformation, supporting its **cloud**-first and **AI**-first strategy.

Google **Cloud** will provide BT with a full range of services and products, such as secure **cloud** infrastructure and advanced **machine learning** tools. BT will also have access to Google **Cloud**'s Site Reliability Engineering (SRE) specialists to help operate a **cloud**-based data and **AI platform** at scale. The partnership will enable BT to use data and **AI** to deliver personalised customer experiences, and support its commitment to driving societal value through response, sustainable technology.

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BT selects GoogleCloud as strategic partner for group-wide data and A..

TD

* Collaboration will involve BT using Google's enhanced data and AI capabilities at every level of its business to deliver personalised customer experiences and continue its commitment to creating societal value through responsible, inclusive, and sustainable tech

* Google Cloud will support BT with a full spectrum of products and services, from secure cloud infrastructure to advanced machine learning tools

* Access to Google Cloud's Site Reliability Engineering (SRE) experts will help drive the cultural change needed to enable BT to operate a data and AI platform in the cloud at scale

Sunnyvale, Calif., and London, UK [10 March 2022]: - Today, Google Cloud and BT announced a strategic, five-year partnership to accelerate BT's company-wide digital transformation. The collaboration will involve BT using a suite of Google Cloud products and services-including cloud infrastructure, machine learning (ML) and artificial intelligence (AI), data analytics, security, and API management-to deliver superior customer experiences, reduce costs and risk, and build new revenue streams.

BT is undertaking a massive digital transformation through its BT Digital unit, and this initiative includes creating a group-wide data and AI fabric as part of its cloud-first and AI-first strategy. Under the partnership, the two companies will help BT unlock hundreds of new business use-cases to strengthen its ambitions around digital offerings and creating hyper-personalised customer engagement.

BT's data transformation is centred around driving business outcomes and using AI and deep ML across the organisation to allow businesses and customers to make more data-led decisions, as well as creating deeper personalisation for customer offerings and new go-to-market propositions. This will also enable BT to have real-time network analytics to allow for a more enhanced customer service through predictive fault management and assurance.

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Google and BT have already started working together on adopting Google technology, and plan to complete the core migration of data by 2023.

About Google Cloud

Google Cloud accelerates every organisation's ability to digitally transform its business. We deliver enterprise-grade solutions that leverage Google's cutting-edge technology - all on the cleanest cloud in the industry. Customers in more than 200 countries and territories turn to Google Cloud as their trusted partner to enable growth and solve their most critical business problems.

* [Original Link](#)

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HD

BT Selects Google Cloud as Strategic Partner for Group-Wide Data and AI Transformation

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738 words

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About BT

BT Group is the UK's leading telecommunications and network provider and a leading provider of global communications services and solutions, serving customers in 180 countries. Its principal activities in the UK include the provision of fixed voice, mobile, broadband and TV (including Sport) and a range of products and services over converged fixed and mobile networks to consumer, business and public sector customers. For its global customers, BT provides managed services, security and network and IT infrastructure services to support their operations all over the world. BT consists of four customer-facing units: Consumer, Enterprise, Global and its wholly-owned subsidiary, Openreach, which provides access network services to over 650 communications provider customers who sell phone, broadband and Ethernet services to homes and businesses across the UK.

For the year ended 31 March 2021, BT Group's reported revenue was GBP21,331m with reported profit before taxation of GBP1,804m.

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SOURCE Google Cloud

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HD Mobile phone boost for EE customers in city

BY Catriona Stewart

WC 305 words

PD 10 March 2022

SN Evening Times

SC EVETIM

PG 4

LA English

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LP

EE mobile phone users in Glasgow should start seeing improved connection across the city after plans to use small antennas installed on CCTV columns and lampposts.

BT is teaming up with Glasgow City Council, alongside other councils across the UK, to use street furniture to boost **connectivity**.

TD

The telecoms firm is also using its own assets, including phone boxes, to boost capacity in high demand areas.

Brian More O'Ferrall, director of mobile operators in BT's Enterprise business, said: "Around 200 of the small cells are already live and are helping to boost 4G coverage for EE customers in towns and cities across the UK.

"We have worked closely with our local authority partners to utilise their street furniture, as well as our own assets, to improve connectivity in these areas.

"Ensuring good digital infrastructure is a priority for many councils, especially with the rise in mobile device ownership and growth in demand for data and connectivity, and they have seen the benefits that such partnerships can provide.

"Not only does it mean that average download speeds can often double in some areas, but it's also more efficient and means there is a reduced need for new cell masts in the localities.

"We're pleased to be working with EE and other mobile network operators to deliver this coverage boost."

Small cells are mobile radio cells that help to provide better coverage for customers at street level, where it's often impractical to install larger mobile masts or where an offloading capability is required.

The programme will allow EE customers to experience uninterrupted data speeds of up to 300Mbps in Glasgow and Edinburgh. The infrastructure will be delivered over the next 18 months and can also support 5G network coverage in the future.

CO glsgco : Glasgow City Council | unelc : EE Ltd. | btcom : BT Group PLC

IN i7902202 : Mobile Telecommunications | i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i79022 : Wireless Telecommunications Services

NS gcat : Political/General News

RE scot : Scotland | uk : United Kingdom | glasg : Glasgow | eurz : Europe | weurz : Western Europe

IPD bt

PUB Newsquest (Herald and Times) LTD and Newsquest (Sunday Herald) LTD

AN Document EVETIM0020220310ei3a00006

HD **Fibre** broadband project completed with final cables installed in Queensbury

BY David Jagger

WC 433 words

PD 10 March 2022

SN Bradford Telegraph and Argus

SC NQTGB

LA English

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LP

A MAJOR rollout of **fibre**-optic broadband across West Yorkshire has completed its final phase with the last cables installed and going live in Queensbury.

The residents of the Bradford village now have access to super-fast broadband **connectivity** - up there with the fastest in Europe - thanks to Superfast West Yorkshire & York.

TD

The two-phased rollout, organised by West Yorkshire Combined Authority, the county's five councils and York Council in partnership with BT Openreach, has made fibre-based broadband widely accessible.

Since it began in 2013, the programme has brought faster and more reliable broadband to 114,000 premises, and 11,000 have access to the full fibre network through £45 million of investment from a range of sources including Government, the European Union and Local Enterprise Partnership funding.

BT Openreach has installed 97 exchanges, 1,200 fibre structures, hundreds of new telegraph poles and thousands of miles of underground fibre-optic cables.

Welcoming the completion of the works, West Yorkshire Mayor Tracy Brabin said: "Faster, reliable broadband has become as important as other utilities – not just for games and movie nights but for opening up flexible working opportunities, especially with Covid still affecting our lives.

"Thanks to the partnership between West Yorkshire Combined Authority and Openreach we've been able to improve broadband connections for thousands of homes and businesses in urban, semi-urban and rural areas across West Yorkshire and York.

"By working together we've been able to increase skilled employment, create jobs and training schemes and boost local economies.

"Although this phase of the programme is at an end, I remain committed to seeing Superfast West Yorkshire and York continue its work in the future, so that everyone and every business in West Yorkshire has the opportunity to connect to reliable services for work or play."

Superfast West Yorkshire & York builds on the work done by Openreach to connect hundreds of thousands of premises in the county to

Robert Thorburn, Openreach Partnership Director for the North, said: "The success of the Superfast West Yorkshire & York partnership is a great achievement and testament to the team who have worked so hard for the past eight years.

"It will continue to help communities to improve their broadband speeds working both with, and independently from, Openreach.

"Our own work sees full fibre being built to hard-to-reach parts of West Yorkshire including Cullingworth and Otley and last year we announced plans for a further 325,000 premises including more than 40,000 in rural, harder to reach communities."

CO btcom : BT Group PLC

IN i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i79021 : Wired Telecommunications Services

NS greg : Regional Politics | gcat : Political/General News | gpir : Politics/International Relations | gppl : Domestic Politics

RE uk : United Kingdom | eland : England | eurz : Europe | weurz : Western Europe

PUB Newsquest Digital Media

AN Document NQTGB00020220310ei3a000p1

SE News
HD **Welsh village with 'the slowest broadband in Britain' where it take 17 HOURS to watch HD film: Locals condemn BT for pausing rollout of new fibre cables as they suffer speeds of between 1 and 3 Mbps per second**
BY Matt Powell For Mailonline
WC 1,463 words
PD 9 March 2022
ET 15:35
SN Mail Online
SC DAMONL
LA English
CY Copyright 2022

LP

- * Villagers are stuck with internet so slow it takes almost a day to watch a film
- * BT have said plans to install fibre optic are 'on hold' for the village in North Wales

TD

- * Internet speeds in the area are often slower than the UK's average from 2010

Angry villagers from one of Britain's slowest areas for broadband are calling for BT to speed up their connection - because it takes 17 hours to watch a movie.

Families in the quiet country village say watching a movie in high definition drags on for 17 hours with continual buffering.

Work was due to be carried out by BT broadband company Openreach in the rural Welsh village to lay fibre cables.

But households in Brithdir, Gwynedd, North Wales, have now been told all community projects are 'on hold.'

Speeds in the village are as low as on to three megabits per second - the UK average is 79.1Mbps.

Stuart Marsh is fed up of living with some of the slowest speeds in Britain, saying he is lucky if their upload speed is 0.5mbps.

He said: 'I had been chasing Community Fibre all through December, but they were very quiet, I just didn't hear anything from them.'

'Eventually, we received a message to say that all Community Fibre projects are on hold. We had secured the necessary funding but were told just after Christmas that all projects are on hold.'

'It's not just our project. It's everything, but no reason was given. We are just not being given enough information.'

'This has been going on and off with different projects since before the start of the Covid pandemic.'

'We've been promised and promised different things. We get so far. We get to the point of being almost there and it just comes to a grinding halt, and that's the frustrating thing.'

Plaid Cymru MP Liz Saville Roberts said: 'I am deeply concerned that Openreach has taken the decision to put all their community fibre schemes on hold, a move which will understandably disappoint many communities such as residents in Brithdir in my constituency who were led to believe that their scheme was progressing.'

Megabits per second: explained

Measuring internet speed is done in megabits per second (Mbps) which is simply how fast data can travel through a network.

Each Mbps represents the capacity to transfer 1 million bits each second, or roughly one small photo per second.

Here are some estimates of what kinds of speed you need for certain activities:

Using social media or browsing the web / 1 – 3 Mbps

Video conferencing via Zoom or FaceTime / 2 – 4 Mbps

Online video streaming through Netflix / 3 – 5 Mbps

Online gaming / 3 – 5 Mbps

Streaming videos in high definition / 5 – 7 Mbps

'Having reached this point in the process and with the necessary funding in place, my constituents are justifiably frustrated, as am I, at the sudden decision to put all existing community fibre schemes on hold, including those nearing completion.'

The community is now calling on Openreach to take action and resume the Fibre Community Partnership scheme.

The Fibre Community Partnership (FCP) programme aims to help connect people all over the country.

So far it has upgraded more than 2050 communities, but in the last few months they have seen demand soar.

So it was put on indefinite hold until they can work through current requests.

Last year the Government announced plans to bring better broadband to more than 500,000 rural homes and businesses, under plans to level up the UK with improved internet connectivity.

In Wales up to 234,000 hard-to-reach premises have been revealed as in-scope for an upgrade through Project Gigabit.

Project Gigabit hopes to bring high speed internet to more than one million hard to reach homes and businesses.

The £5 billion government infrastructure project will aim to bring next generation gigabit broadband in its first phase.

In a winter update on the plan, the Government said they had collected detailed gigabit market information and are developing procurement plans for Wales.

Last year the slowest areas in the UK for broadband speeds, averaging below 3mbps, were identified by Uswitch.

Wistaston Road in Crewe topped the list as the slowest and was joined by Grand Road in Banchory, Dutchells Copse in Horsham, Cornwall Avenue in Manchester and Crossways South in Doncaster.

How does YOUR area stack up? UK's best and worst towns and cities for broadband are revealed - with Hull, Luton and Portsmouth topping the list

By Sam Tonkin

When it comes to streaming movies and games — or even working from home — there's nothing more frustrating than a slow or dodgy broadband connection.

That is not so much of a problem in Hull, Luton and Portsmouth, however, as people living in these areas enjoy access to some of the best internet speeds across the UK, according to new research.

But sadly the same cannot be said for those in major cities in Scotland — particularly Aberdeen and Glasgow — and much of the north of England.

Residents living there have the worst internet speeds in Britain, according to a study by the insurance company Protect Your Bubble, and in some cases access to ultrafast broadband is almost a third of the UK average.

TOP 10 UK TOWNS OR CITIES FOR ULTRAFAST BROADBAND ACCESS

Rank Area % premises with access to ultrafast broadband

1	Hull	97.5
2	Luton	94.5
3	Portsmouth	93.8
4	Nottingham	91.8
5	Belfast	90.9
6	Wolverhampton	90.8
7	Leicester	90.8
8	Middlesbrough	90.6
9	Slough	90.1
10	Birmingham	90

Unsurprisingly Hull, Britain's first full fibre city, came out on top in the research, with 97.5 per cent of the premises in the city having access to ultrafast broadband.

That is well clear of the UK average of 82.5 per cent.

Luton placed second, with ultrafast broadband reaching 94.5 per cent of residential and business properties, thanks in part to the local council's £180,000 investment in recent years to enable superfast broadband to the area.

Portsmouth followed in third with almost 94 per cent of its premises boasting access to ultrafast broadband.

Nottingham and Belfast complete the top five areas with the highest accessibility of ultrafast broadband with 91.8 and 90.9 per cent, respectively.

[related]

BOTTOM 10 TOWNS OR CITIES FOR ULTRAFAST BROADBAND ACCESS

Rank Area % premises with access to ultrafast broadband

1	Aberdeen	49
2	Sheffield	50.1
3	Sunderland	63.6
4	Glasgow	69.4
5	Newcastle	70.5
6	Blackpool	70.5
7	Warrington	71.2
8	Manchester	71.8
9	Southend-on-Sea	73.6
10	York	75.5

Surprisingly, London ranks just above the UK average, with 80.3 percent of its residents and businesses being able to access these speeds.

Aberdeen was bottom of the list with 49 per cent, while Glasgow did not fare much better on 69.4 per cent.

However, there is some good news for residents in Aberdeen, as the city is one of the areas set to benefit from an £8 million cash injection to boost broadband speeds across Scotland.

Sheffield follows closely as the second worst area for accessibility with just 50.1 per cent premises having access to ultrafast broadband.

Sunderland (63.6 per cent) and Newcastle (70.5 per cent) complete the bottom five areas in the UK.

James Brown, director at Protect your bubble, said: 'The pandemic has proven just how vital good quality connectivity is to everyday life and this is only set to grow.'

'With portable devices playing a key part in people's connectivity, the public must ensure their device is well-covered should it ever get lost or damaged to minimise any disruption.'

In July 2019, Prime Minister Boris Johnson pledged he would deliver full-fibre to 'every home in the land' by 2025.

However, the government quietly downgraded the target to reach 85 per cent of the UK, according to an infrastructure report in November.

The report said: 'The government is working with industry to target a minimum of 85 per cent gigabit capable coverage by 2025, but will seek to accelerate roll-out further to get as close to 100 per cent as possible.

'The government will continue to implement an ambitious programme of work to remove barriers to broadband deployment and maximise coverage in the hardest to reach areas of the country.'

The full data set can be accessed [here](#).

CO btcom : BT Group PLC

IN iwrssl : Wireless Area Network Technology | i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i3302 : Computers/Consumer Electronics | i3303 : Networking | itech : Technology | i79021 : Wired Telecommunications Services

RE uk : United Kingdom | wales : Wales | eurz : Europe | weurz : Western Europe

PUB DMG Media Limited

AN Document DAMONL0020220309ei390053d

HD BT updates on progress of EE 4G Emergency Services Network

WC 176 words

PD 9 March 2022

SN Telecompaper Europe

SC TELEUR

LA English

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LP

BT's Emergency Services Network managing director, Richard Harrap, has published an update on the progress with the ESN. EE has been appointed by the Home Office to build a 4G voice and data network to replace the Airwave system currently used by emergency services.

To date, the company has completed upgrades to all the EE network estate to be ESN-capable. This includes more than 19,500 masts in England, Wales and Scotland. It has also installed coverage on road and rail tunnels and stations for over 71 upgrade and development schemes; and deliver ESN **connectivity** across more than 540,000 km of roads. It has also built more than 650 new 4G sites, and established a fleet of rapid response vehicles to provide temporary and emergency coverage within hours.

TD

EE now offers a full suite of ESN-certified coverage-as-a-service solutions to support Home Office and ESN users to increase and boost coverage into critical areas such as training centres and operational headquarters.

CO unelc : EE Ltd. | btcom : BT Group PLC

IN i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i79022 : Wireless Telecommunications Services

NS ccat : Corporate/Industrial News | c411 : Management Moves | csImc : Senior Level Management | c24 : Capacity/Facilities | c41 : Management | ncat : Content Types | nfact : Factiva Filters | nfcpx : C&E Executive News Filter | nfcpin : C&E Industry News Filter

RE eurz : Europe

PUB Telecompaper BV

AN Document TELEUR0020220309ei390005t

HD EE deals: Get six months of FREE Xbox Game Pass Ultimate with this brilliant broadband offer

BY MaxF

WC 438 words

PD 8 March 2022

SN Expert Reviews

SC EXPRW

LA English

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LP

If you've already signed up for one of the company's pay-monthly plans, EE deals don't get much better than this. For a limited time, it's throwing in six months of free Xbox Game Pass Ultimate with its Full **Fibre** Max 500 broadband plan, which gets you a gigantic 500Mbps/sec for £41/mth on a two-year plan (usually £46/mth for customers who don't already have an EE phone contract).

EE hasn't finished there, though: you'll also get 20GB of extra mobile data per month. By our reckoning, this deal will end up saving you at least £180 – and that's before you even include the additional data. EE isn't famous for its money-saving bargains, which makes this an unmissable offer for loyal customers who want to play top-tier games for less and get the bandwidth to make the most of them.

TD

Just snap it up as soon as possible as savings this stunning don't last for long.

[Buy now from EE](#)

[Xbox Game Pass Ultimate](#) lets you play over 100 games from the cloud on a range of different devices. That includes popular titles such as Madden NFL 22, FAR: Changing Tides, Hollow Knight, Minecraft, Microsoft flight Simulator, FIFA 21, Skyrim and many, many more. Think of it as a streaming service for games. Once the complimentary six months are over, Xbox Game Pass Ultimate will set you back £10/mth for the remainder of the contract.

As for the broadband, you're getting a fantastic 500Mbps/sec from one of the best internet service providers around. EE garnered five stars and a coveted Recommended award in our most recent review, where we praised its excellent router and reliability.

That 500Mbps/sec download speed should be enough for even the busiest of households or most demanding users, but you can step up to a jaw-dropping [900Mbps/sec for £61/mth](#) if you're an existing EE pay-month customer (usually £67/mth).

[Buy now from EE](#)

Put simply, this is an outstanding offer if you have a preexisting EE pay-monthly contract. It would be a steal with just six free months of Xbox Game Pass Ultimate, but that extra 20GB of mobile data is the cherry on the contract cake.

If you'd like to peruse the alternatives, head over to our roundup of the best broadband deals. We've also gathered all of the finest EE offers on the latest phones in one place.

CO unelc : EE Ltd. | btcom : BT Group PLC

IN i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i79022 : Wireless Telecommunications Services

PUB Dennis Publishing Limited

AN Document EXPRW00020220308ei380002x



HD How we're bringing **connectivity** to more of Britain for our emergency services

BY By Richard Harrap, MD Emergency Services Network at BT

WC 660 words

PD 8 March 2022

SN Total Telecom Plus

SC TOTEL

LA English

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LP

Emergency service personnel are rightly regarded as national heroes and they play a vital role in our country, responding to critical incidents and helping to keep us safe

To support this crucial work, our police, fire and rescue, ambulance services and other first responders, need ultra-reliable **connectivity** to provide secure and mission-critical communications that they can also **trust** to keep them safe too. Whether it's ambulances sending vital patient data to hospitals so staff can prepare for a patient's arrival; police officers controlling a volatile crowd calling for urgent back-up; or fire and rescue crews assessing burning buildings, based on digital blueprints on tablets and live helicopter camera footage; all these scenarios depend on a network that's fast, safe, and reliable.

TD

It's a major reason why, as the UK's biggest 4G network, EE was entrusted by the Home Office to build the new critical Emergency Services Network (ESN). We continue to make our network bigger and increase its performance and reliability.

So far, we've: • Completed upgrades to all our EE network estate to be ESN-capable. This includes over 19,500 masts across England, Scotland, and Wales, including many thousands of sites that provide unique road coverage for ESN. • Installed coverage on challenging road and rail tunnels and stations for more than 71 upgrade and development schemes, including operational areas specifically required for the emergency services, such as the Glasgow SPT Subway and Nexus Metro, major road tunnels across Wales and the South of England like the Severn Tunnel, and high-speed rail routes including HS1 tunnels. • Delivered ESN connectivity across more than 540,000km of roads. • Delivered upgrades and system improvements to ensure high availability service levels are met. • Built over 650 brand new 4G sites: also delivering vital broadband connectivity to many communities for the very first time. • Established our fleet of Rapid Response Vehicles, including trailer-based versions, known as cells-on-wheels, to provide emergency and temporary coverage within hours. Indeed, they have been used to support many incidents such as fires and floods.

In addition to these key milestones, a full suite of ESN-certified Coverage-as-a-Service solutions are now available from EE to support the Home Office and ESN users to expand and enhance coverage into their critical areas such as operational headquarters, training centres and strategic buildings. This also includes supporting them through surveys and site assessments right through to design, build and operation.

As an added benefit to the public, the network we're building enables us to offer neutral host solutions where required, or, in other words, opening up the connectivity for any major mobile network operator. This includes locations such as rail stations and public buildings, and these services are also available to potential customers such as property developers and landowners who need to ensure there is ESN coverage in their facilities.

I'm proud of the work our teams have achieved on delivering coverage for ESN. It's a vital project that will transform our emergency services for the better and giving them cutting-edge communication technology to respond quickly to incidents, even in the most rural and remote areas and help to improve public safety.

But, as pleased as I am with our progress, it's important to stress that our work continues to keep delivering more resilient coverage for, and in partnership with, our emergency services.

For more information about ESN visit [EE 4G & ESN | Emergency Services Network | EE Business](#)

What are the next steps for enhancing the UK's connectivity infrastructure? Join the operators in discussion at this year's live Connected Britain conference
Also in the news: Champagne time? Rogers acquisition of Shaw loses its sparkle
Commit to wiring every single American - or fall further behind
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RE uk : United Kingdom | eurz : Europe | weurz : Western Europe
IPD Press
PUB Terrapinn Limited
AN Document TOTEL00020220308ei3800003

HD Plan.com signs deal with TalkTalk Wholesale to offer broadband services

WC 94 words

PD 8 March 2022

SN Telecompaper Europe

SC TELEUR

LA English

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Plan.com, technology and **platform** provider, has agreed a partnership with TalkTalk Wholesale Services to offer broadband services to business customers through the plan.com telecoms **platform**.

Isle of Man-based Plan.com provides UK businesses with **connectivity** and productivity solutions. This agreement will expand its existing hosted proposition to offer enhanced choice and **connectivity** through the plan.com **platform**. The new broadband offering is available to customers from 08 March, with TalkTalk joining BT, O2 and EE on the plan.com **platform**.

CO tlkttl : TalkTalk Telecom Group PLC | unelc : EE Ltd. | btcom : BT Group PLC

IN i7902 : Telecommunication Services | iint : Online Service Providers | itech : Technology | i79022 : Wireless Telecommunications Services | i79026 : Integrated Communications Providers

NS ccat : Corporate/Industrial News | cpartn : Partnerships/Collaborations

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PUB Telecompaper BV

AN Document TELEUR0020220308ei38000mh

HD BT Group plc - How we're bringing **connectivity** to more of Britain for our emergency s..

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SC LCDVP

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How we're bringing **connectivity** to more of Britain for our emergency s..

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Emergency service personnel are rightly regarded as national heroes and they play a vital role in our country, responding to critical incidents and helping to keep us safe.

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- Delivered ESN connectivity across more than 540,000km of roads.
- Delivered upgrades and system improvements to ensure high availability service levels are met.
- Built over 650 brand new 4G sites: also delivering vital broadband connectivity to many communities for the very first time.
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For more information about ESN visit [EE 4G & ESN | Emergency Services Network | EE Business](#)

* [Original Link](#)

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IN i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i79021 : Wired Telecommunications Services | i79022 : Wireless Telecommunications Services

NS npress : Press Releases | ncat : Content Types

RE uk : United Kingdom | eurz : Europe | weurz : Western Europe

PUB PUBT Inc

AN Document LCDVP00020220308ei3800bvu

HD **Forget 5G! EE just boosted the mobile signal that really matters right now**

BY David Snelling

WC 538 words

PD 8 March 2022

ET 08:12

SN express.co.uk

SC EXCO

LA English

CY Copyright 2022

LP

5G MIGHT be the future of mobile **connectivity** but EE has given millions of customers the boost they really need right now.

This article contains affiliate links, we may receive a commission on any sales we generate from it.
[Learn more](#)

TD

There's no question that 5G is the future of your smartphone with this new technology capable of blisteringly quick downloads when away from fixed-line broadband. When optimised to its full potential users can expect to see files whizzed to their devices at speeds in excess of 300Mbps - that's around four times faster than most people's home broadband.

It all sounds mightily impressive but there are some things to remember about 5G. Firstly, you'll need a new smartphone as older devices, including the iPhone 11, aren't compatible with 5G. Then there's your phone contract as anyone who hasn't upgraded their SIM deal in a while will still be getting 4G speeds even if they own a 5G-ready smartphone.

Then there's the simple fact that many don't really need ludicrously fast speeds when out and about especially as most consumers are on contracts that have data caps which means they are far less likely to be streaming movies and downloading huge files.

For the majority of smartphone owners, 4G is plenty fast enough right now and there's very good news about this older technology if you use the EE network.

The firm has announced that it's rolling out hundreds of phone boosting small cells to areas across the UK which will help make 4G infinitely faster.

EE says it has partnered with Nokia to add this technology to things such as the iconic red telephone boxes that are scattered across our cities.

Small cells are mobile radio cells that help to provide better coverage for customers at street level, where it's often impractical to build larger sites. Located on a variety of existing street assets the units offer discreet boosters for coverage and are part of EE's investment to maintain a strong signal for all of its users.

Customers in Leeds, London and Manchester among first to benefit from download speeds up to 300Mbps and improved video streaming

As well as Leeds, London and Manchester, EE and Nokia have also brought these new small cells online in parts of Edinburgh, Glasgow, Liverpool, Newcastle, Nottingham and Scarborough. Hundreds more small cell deployments are planned in the next 18 months.

Speaking about the upgrade David Salam, Director of Mobile Networks, EE: "EE has been the number one network for eight years running and we are committed to maintaining the best possible customer experience. Investment and innovation are the key to consistent network improvement and this partnership with Nokia, to deploy small cells to support our 4G – and in the future, 5G – network, is a new solution to maintain our network leadership in the UK."

Related articles iPhone 14 looks unrecognisable in leaked image of all-new smartphone The biggest Apple news of the year is coming this week Apple set to reveal new iPhone with a price that might surprise you

CO unelc : EE Ltd. | btcom : BT Group PLC

IN i34411 : Mobile Communications Devices | i3441 : Telecommunications Equipment | itech : Technology
| i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i79022 : Wireless Telecommunications Services

RE uk : United Kingdom | eurz : Europe | weurz : Western Europe

PUB Express Newspapers

AN Document EXCO000020220308ei3800336

SE news
HD **Molife launches Sense 500 Pro BT Calling Smartwatch with AI Voice Assistance**
WC 931 words
PD 8 March 2022
SN TechTree.com
SC TDTECT
LA English
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LP

India's first home-grown Mobile & Lifestyle accessory brand, today announced the launch of its latest Smartwatch – Sense 500 Pro BT calling smartwatch in the wearables segment. With Molife's focus towards the 'Make in India' initiative, Sense 500 Pro is company's fourth 'Made in India' smartwatch.

Priced at INR 3,999/- (MSRP), Sense 500 Pro comes with 1.7 inch Full Touch IPS display with premium finish crown. It also has a camera/ media control feature along with Bluetooth calling function. The smartwatch is available on Amazon.in, Flipkart.com and molifeworld.com at an inaugural price of INR 2999/- for a limited period.

TD

The smartwatch is available in 7 vibrant strap colors - Topsy Wine, Mushy Teal, Rich Blue, Pretty Peach, Snow White, Epic Red & Dusty Grey for customers to choose from. The Sense 500 Pro colour variants are available at an additional price of INR 100/-.

Speaking about the launch, Mr. Deepesh Gupta, Managing Director at Molife said, "We are delighted to present our seventh smartwatch – the Sense 500 Pro in our existing portfolio. With the remarkable response received from customers for the Sense 500, we are thrilled to unveil the Sense 500 Pro. In the current times, smartwatches have become an essential part of our daily lives and with our latest launch, we want to take our consumers experience to a higher level at an affordable price point. Keeping our customers feedback in mind, we are constantly working towards improvements and innovations and now offer better sensor accuracy and features like DND & AI assistance. With our aim to service consumers with the best in class products and latest innovation in the smart wearable category, we are looking forward to a positive reception from our consumers."

After the successful launch of the first six smartwatches in this series, and the overwhelming response that Molife has received for its predecessor the Molife Sense 500, the brand is all set to introduce 'Molife Sense 500 Pro'. It is a lightweight BT calling smartwatch equipped with AI voice assistance that comes with a 1.7-inch square dialed watch screen IPS display, with contemporary features including IP68 water and dust resistant rating, up to 3 days working time with call feature enabled, 10 sports modes, and unlimited cloud-based watch faces. The smartwatch is also equipped with ringer & vibration options, which can be controlled directly through the smartwatch instead of using their smartphone. In addition to this, the watch also has a camera/ media control feature. Other interesting features include dynamic 24 hours active heart rate, blood pressure, SpO2 and Menstrual cycle monitor for female customers.

The smartwatch is also equipped with an easy switch option. One can simply tap and shift the mode from smartwatch directly without using the smartphone. This is a very convenient feature for consumers who look forward to a hassle free experience.

The 'Sense 500 Pro' BT calling smartwatch comes with a package including a 2Pin magnet cable & a user guide to understand the product & its features in an efficient way.

With this launch, Molife has taken a humble initiative to encourage people towards a greener tomorrow. The smartwatch comes with a seed paper inside the box and the card is printed on a plantable paper carrying basil seeds. One can soak it in water until soft, bury it in soil, keep it moist and watch it bloom.

Key Product Features include:

A smartwatch with BT calling function

With in-built speaker & mic on the Molife Sense 500 Pro, one can go hands free and chit chat your heart out with no hassle of holding your phone to the ear! The Molife Sense 510 offers you the freedom to make

and answer calls thanks to the brilliant combination of a mic, speaker, and dialling pad offered. Let your phone remain in your pocket

AI Voice Assistance

With built-in Voice assistant, you can simply speak to the smartwatch & get things done with the convenience of your voice

Health sensors and sports modes

Stress no more about stress anymore. Keep track of your stress level, blood pressure level, SpO2 level, and heart rate on the go. There's also 10 sports modes and a 24-hour heart rate monitoring feature.

1.7-inch round screen IPS Display

Molife Sense 500 Pro comes with a large display of 43mm (1.7) IPS (240*280) with Full Color Touchscreen

Unlimited Cloud based DIY watch faces

The Sense 500 Pro offers a huge variety of cloud-based watch face options to choose from. In fact, users can also customise the watch face as per their liking and change watch straps as per their choice, occasion, and outfit

Long battery life

Sense 500 Pro has a 220 MAH battery with up to 3 days working time with calling feature enabled & 15 days of standby time

Diverse software functions

A jack of all trades indeed, Sense 510 has various software features ranging from Camera & media control to incoming call/message alert. From Sleep monitoring to heart rate monitoring. You name it & it has it!

IP68 water resistance

Sweat it out without worrying about moisture and splashes, with IP68 water resistance of AI, designed to back you up.

Light weight & stylish

Molife 500 Pro comes with a lightweight built-up of 56gm which ensures comfort. With 8 different colour straps available; Topsy Wine, Mushy Teal, Rich Blue, Pretty Peach, Snow White, Epic Red, Dusty Grey & Simply Black, this is your go-to with every outfit, be it formal or casual!

CO fliosp : Flipkart Internet Private Limited | btcom : BT Group PLC | wlmrt : Walmart Inc

IN iwetec : Wearable Technology | i3454 : Personal Electronics | i3302 : Computers/Consumer Electronics | ielec : Consumer Electronics | itech : Technology | i64 : Retail/Wholesale | i656000301 : Etailing | i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i79021 : Wired Telecommunications Services | iecom : E-commerce | iint : Online Service Providers | iretail : Retail

NS c22 : New Products/Services | gptech : Personal Technology | ccat : Corporate/Industrial News | cexpro : Products/Services | gcat : Political/General News | glife : Living/Lifestyle | ncat : Content Types | nfact : Factiva Filters | nfcpin : C&E Industry News Filter

RE india : India | asiaz : Asia | bric : BRICS Countries | devgcoz : Emerging Market Countries | dvpcoz : Developing Economies | indsubz : Indian Subcontinent | sasiaz : Southern Asia

PUB Trivone Digital Services Pvt. Ltd.

AN Document TDTECT0020220308ei3800001

SE News**HD** **Fibre** on hold in village that already has some of UK's slowest net connections**BY** ERYL CRUMP**WC** 437 words**PD** 8 March 2022**SN** Daily Post**SC** DPO**ED** 1; National**PG** 4**LA** English**CY** © The Liverpool Daily Post & Echo Ltd, 2022.**LP**

BROADBAND provider Openreach is being urged to bring superfast **fibre** broadband to a rural village. Residents of Brithdir, near Dolgellau, said download speeds were 1-3Mbps - among the slowest in the UK.

Despite promises to upgrade the area, Openreach has paused its rural **fibre** connection scheme.

TD

The rural Meirionnydd community has a longstanding community fibre application in place with Openreach.

But the speeds provided by Openreach means it can take up to 70 minutes to download a film in standard definition, or 17 hours in high definition.

Brithdir resident Stuart Marsh said: "I had been chasing Community Fibre all through December, but I just didn't hear anything from them. Eventually, we were told just after Christmas that all [community fibre] projects are on hold.

"It's not just our project, it's everything, but no reason was given. We are just not being given enough information.

"We've been promised and promised different things. We get so far. We get to the point of being almost there and it just comes to a grinding halt. That's the frustrating thing."

Locals have called on Openreach to take urgent action to resume work and alerted Dwyfor Meirionnydd MP Liz Saville Roberts to their plight.

She said the stance taken by Openreach had worsened the "digital divide" in Wales.

The Plaid Cymru MP has called on Openreach to urgently resume its Fibre Community Partnership (FCP) scheme.

In response to correspondence from Ms Saville Roberts, Openreach confirmed all its FCP schemes are under review, with all existing applications on hold indefinitely.

Ms Saville Roberts said: "Having reached this point in the process and with the necessary funding in place, my constituents are justifiably frustrated, as am I, at the sudden decision to put all existing community fibre schemes on hold, including those nearing completion. "I urge Openreach to provide my constituents and others in the same situation with immediate clarity as to the status of their community fibre application and a realistic and reliable timescale for completion of works.

"Delays to a specific scheme which aims to connect those who do not commercially or governmentally qualify for fibre broadband only serves to aggravate the digital divide between rural and urban areas."

Openreach said it was working to build an "ultrafast ultra-reliable" full fibre network across Wales.

But a spokesman added: "Our fibre community partnership has been an incredibly popular scheme and due to high levels of demand, we had to temporarily pause new registrations while we worked through existing requests."

CO btcom : BT Group PLC

IN iwrissl : Wireless Area Network Technology | i7902 : Telecommunication Services | iint : Online Service Providers | i3302 : Computers/Consumer Electronics | i3303 : Networking | itech : Technology | i79021 : Wired Telecommunications Services

NS gcat : Political/General News

RE uk : United Kingdom | eurz : Europe | weurz : Western Europe

PUB Reach Plc

AN Document DPO0000020220308ei380000h

SE Topic -Gwynedd
HD **The isolated Gwynedd village with the 'slowest broadband in the UK'**
BY By, Eryl Crump
WC 681 words
PD 8 March 2022
ET 05:00
SN dailypost.co.uk
SC DPOONL
LA English
CY © 2022 Reach Plc
LP

It can take up to 70 minutes to download a film in standard definition or 17 hours to watch the same movie in high-definition in Brithdir

Broadband provider Openreach is being urged to bring superfast **fibre** broadband to a rural village

TD

Residents of Brithdir, near Dolgellau said download speeds were 1-3 megabits per second Mbps -among the slowest in the UK.

Despite promises to upgrade the area broadband network provider Openreach has paused its rural fibre connection scheme, citing high demand.

READ MORE: [Penrhyn Castle, slavery and how it shaped the North Wales slate industry](#)

Residents and businesses in the rural Meirionnydd community have a longstanding community fibre application in place with Openreach, having secured the necessary funding to progress with the scheme.

But the speeds provided by Openreach means it can take up to 70 minutes to download a film in standard definition.

Watching the same movie in high-definition would take 17 hours with continual buffering.

Brithdir resident Stuart Marsh said: "I had been chasing Community Fibre all through December, but they were very quiet, I just didn't hear anything from them. I'd been chasing them on a few things and had heard nothing back where previously, they were quite informative.

"Eventually, we received a message to say that all Community Fibre projects are on hold. We had secured the necessary funding but were told just after Christmas that all projects are on hold.

"It's not just our project. It's everything, but no reason was given. We are just not being given enough information. This has been going on and off with different projects since before the start of the Covid pandemic.

"We've been promised and promised different things. We get so far. We get to the point of being almost there and it just comes to a grinding halt, and that's the frustrating thing."

Are rural areas being left behind by Openreach Have your say in the [comments section below](#)

Locals have called on Openreach to take urgent action to resume work and alerted Dwyfor Meirionnydd MP Liz Saville Roberts to their plight.

She said the stance taken by Openreach had worsened the "digital divide" in Wales.

The Plaid Cymru MP has called on broadband network provider Openreach to urgently resume its Fibre Community Partnership FCP scheme which has been put on indefinite hold due to an apparent surge in demand.

In response to correspondence from Ms Saville Roberts Openreach confirmed all their Fibre Community Partnership FCP schemes are now under review, with all existing applications put on hold indefinitely.

Ms Saville Roberts said: "I am deeply concerned that Openreach has taken the decision to put all their community fibre schemes on hold, a move which will understandably disappoint many communities such as residents in Brithdir in my constituency who were led to believe that their scheme was progressing.

"Having reached this point in the process and with the necessary funding in place, my constituents are justifiably frustrated, as am I, at the sudden decision to put all existing community fibre schemes on hold, including those nearing completion.

"I urge Openreach to provide my constituents and others in the same situation, with immediate clarity as to the status of their community fibre application and with a realistic and reliable timescale for completion of works.

"People living in rural areas such as parts of Dwyfor Meirionnydd are already at [a disproportionate disadvantage](#) when it comes to accessing fast, reliable broadband.

"Delays to a specific scheme which aims to connect those who do not commercially or governmentally qualify for fibre broadband only serves to compound matters, further aggravating the digital divide between rural and urban areas."

Openreach said it was working to build an "ultrafast ultra-reliable" full fibre network across Wales.

But a spokesman added: "Our fibre community partnership has been an incredibly popular scheme and due to high levels of demand, we had to temporarily pause new registrations while we worked through existing requests."

CO btcom : BT Group PLC

IN iwrlssl : Wireless Area Network Technology | ibrdbi : Broadband Equipment | i3302 : Computers/Consumer Electronics | i3303 : Networking | i3441 : Telecommunications Equipment | itech : Technology | i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i79021 : Wired Telecommunications Services

NS gmovie : Movies | gcat : Political/General News | gent : Arts/Entertainment

RE uk : United Kingdom | wales : Wales | eurz : Europe | weurz : Western Europe

PUB Reach Plc

AN Document DPOONL0020220308ei380008d

SE Government & Economy
HD **BT EXPLAINS; Why was Singapore's anti-spoofing registry shut and replaced?**
BY Yong Jun Yuan , Why was Singapore's anti-spoofing registry shut and replaced?
WC 710 words
PD 8 March 2022
SN Business Times Singapore
SC STBT
LA English
CY © 2022 SPH Media Limited
LP

Singapore

SINGAPORE'S SMS SenderID Protection Registry pilot with the Mobile **Ecosystem** Forum (MEF) will be shut and rebuilt by the Singapore Network Information Centre (SGNIC), a subsidiary of the Infocomm Media Development Authority (IMDA)Infocomm Media Development Authority (IMDA), from Monday (Mar 7).

TD

What was the pilot supposed to achieve?

On Jan 17, 2022, IMDA's director of communications and marketing Foo Wen Dee announced the pilot in response to a spate of SMS spoofing attacks targeting OCBC customers.

As part of the attacks, OCBC customers received scam SMSes that appeared in the same thread as the bank's legitimate messages.

This was because scammers were able to send messages with the same "header", or SMS sender ID, as the bank.

Under the voluntary pilot, supported by MEF since last August, companies would pay between £15,000 (\$\$27,439) and £22,000 to register their sender IDs, as well as any other lookalike names, such as "OC3C" or "D5S".

Registration was supposed to prevent messages being delivered by scammers trying to impersonate the legitimate companies.

MEF would also provide training and threat analysis expertise to these companies.

How do companies send SMSes?

Companies engage so-called "Tier 1" SMS aggregators to send SMSes to their customers.

Tier 1 SMS aggregators are service providers that sign contracts with mobile network operators (MNOs) to send SMSes.

There are also lower-tiered aggregators that do not work directly with MNOs but instead forward messages onwards to other aggregators, which then pass SMS traffic on to MNOs.

For this reason, the United Kingdom's National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) encourages companies to understand the processes that their aggregators use to send SMSes and to use Tier 1 SMS aggregators if possible.

In Singapore, examples of tier 1 aggregators include Commzgate, Hello Technology and Orange Gum.

Lower-tier aggregators tend to charge lower rates and may not comply with regulations and requirements from telecommunications companies.

How were spoofed messages blocked with the MEF?

The Business Times (BT) understands that upon signing on to the MEF registry, all SMS aggregators, regardless of their tier, would receive a blacklist of lookalike sender IDs that would automatically be blocked.

Aggregators would also receive a white-list of companies and the actual sender IDs that they use.

The white-list, however, is not meant to be used to block messages. Rather, aggregators generate a weekly log based on messages with a company's sender ID that they have relayed - and this is sent to said company.

The company would then check to see if the messages originated from their designated aggregator.

If it did not, they could flag it as suspicious and flag it to MEF.

Only after the company had concluded its investigation would MEF ask aggregators to block the offending aggregator from sending SMSes with the company's protected sender ID.

This system created some loopholes. For instance, scam messages could still be sent to users in the time it takes a company to complete its investigation.

How will SGNIC's registry work?

In its statement on Monday, IMDA said the new system would automatically identify and block spoofed messages using protected SMS sender IDs.

BT understands that this would mean an investigation will no longer be required before SMSes are blocked.

The authorities said this more proactive approach would allow it to better protect consumers.

There has been some contention about such a system. In an e-mail seen by BT, MEF had raised concerns that such a system would prevent genuine messages from being delivered.

Additionally, BT understands that IMDA will work with local mobile network operators to filter out SMSes with protected sender IDs that may have been sent through overseas telcos.

In time, the authorities intend to publish a list of compliant aggregators that have signed on to the registry. Among other conditions, aggregators will need to commit to blocking SMSes with protected sender IDs that do not originate from their listed aggregators.

Businesses that do not sign up with these aggregators will not be able to complete their registration on SGNIC's registry.

CO mddvau : Info-communications Media Development Authority | btcom : BT Group PLC

IN i7902202 : Mobile Telecommunications | i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i79022 : Wireless Telecommunications Services | i79021 : Wired Telecommunications Services

NS gscam : Phone/Online Scams | gcat : Political/General News | gcrim : Crime/Legal Action | gfraud : Fraud | ncat : Content Types | nfact : Factiva Filters | nfcpx : C&E Executive News Filter

RE singp : Singapore | apacz : Asia Pacific | asiaz : Asia | seasiaz : Southeast Asia

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	interoperable VR space or digital financial ecosystems or metaverse wallets or robo advisory or virtual financial data or digital bank branches or digital touchpoint or blockchain wallets or digital wallets or digital wedding or virtual wedding or virtual event or virtual concert or virtual theme park or virtual classroom or virtual learning or virtual school or immersive learning or metaverse or digitally outfits or VR or virtual real estate or NFT or Twin world or VR network or anime metaverse or immersive metaverse or CRM or gamification or crypto or AR or digital twin or cryptocurrency or immersive VR or virtual shoe or virtual restaurants or Devices or Metaverse platform or Metaverse ready network or Hardware or OEM or Platform or fibre or CDN or Ethics or Sustainability or Digital inclusion or Ecosystem or Investment or Venturing or Funding or Startups or Venture fund or Tech startup or Cloud or Data analytics or Machine learning or Big data or AI or AR or VR or XR or MR or OTT or Connectivity or Content or 5G Labs or 5G network or 5G investments or 5G applications or 5G expansion or 5G launch or Cybersecurity or Privacy or Trust or Network security or Cyber or Cyber threat or payment or digital payment or virtual payment or cable
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