IBC Confirms December for 2021 Show

It is welcome news indeed that IBC is back on the trade show calendar for us all, even though it has been put back to **December 3-6** at the RAI in Amsterdam.

"Following a period of industry consultation, the IBC Partnership Board has agreed that December is the best date in terms of safety and industry readiness to engage. Our conclusion is based on the results of the recent IBC exhibitor and visitor surveys and macro evidence of Europe opening up for business," said Michael Crimp, Chief Executive of IBC.

"We really value the feedback and candid input of our community — we have always been "By the industry, For the industry", and this ethos continues to guide our daily decision-making process."

Key factors behind the IBC decision all concerned the health and safety of the attendees and organisers, and it was subject to a survey conducted concerning predicted vaccination levels by December as well as the proposed opening of borders across IBC's core markets by the end of the year.

EU commission data shows that Europe achieved its 70% vaccination target by July 2021, and is on course to significantly surpass this target by December, so we are all looking forward to meeting in person at the industry's biggest event of the year. See you there.

For more information, see www.ibc.org

BTV announce new CEO, Joe Doering

The BTV Multimedia Group, a rapidly growing group of medium-sized companies in the broadband industry under the umbrella of Deutsche Beteiligungs AG (DBAG), has appointed Joe Doering as its new CEO. At the same time, the group is accelerating its growth path with an expanded management team.

Doering was appointed on May 31 this year and brings 25 years of experience in telecommunications to BTV Multimedia, including operational roles at Siemens Fiber Optics in Berlin, Cupertino, and Malacca, as head of strategy and head of the technology office for Siemens' fixed-line business, and as Managing Director for Nokia in Asia and Europe.

Most recently, he served on the group management of the Kathrein Group and, as part of an Ericsson acquisition, was responsible for the global antenna business as Chief Markets Officer.

Joe Doering told *Broadband Journal*, "Broadband expansion is a key issue for Europe's future and competitiveness in a

Joe Doering, CEO, BTV

globalised and digital world economy. I am looking forward to the task of supporting our customers in Europe in the efficient and sustainable expansion of HFC and fibre optic networks, together with my colleagues." Doering added: "The core of our work is the Europe-wide distribution of the expanded product and service portfolio of the BTV Multimedia Group

and the continuation of the successful growth strategy of my predecessor Dr. Christoph Klein."

The chairman of the group's advisory board, Thomas Braun, welcomes Joe Doering: "Mr. Doering has successfully developed and implemented growth strategies. He knows the market and the technology and has developed businesses with his teams in a customer-oriented manner. In conjunction with the other appointments in the group management, we now have a complete, strong team and are ideally positioned for future challenges, tasks and developments."

Ragnar Geerdts, Managing Director of DBAG, commented, "DBAG stands behind the Europe-wide growth strategy of the BTV Multimedia Group. The course for further growth of the group, organic and inorganic, has been set and will see further sales and future-oriented momentum with the new management team."

For more information, see www.btv-multimedia.de

Anthony Basham appointed Technical Sales Director at DKT

DKT A/S, one of Europe's leading providers of broadband components for FTTH and HFC applications, has appointed Anthony Basham as Technical Sales Director. Anthony of course is a familiar face at the SCTE®, known to you all as our President and Chair. His role at the SCTE® remains unchanged.

DKT A/S is thus continuing its strong growth course, which is particularly focused on the development of innovative products for network termination and installation.

Anthony Basham, Technical Sales Director, DKT

Anthony Basham is a proven expert for HFC networks, especially in the areas of DOCSIS and RF engineering, and has many years of senior-level experience at well-known companies in the industry. Most recently, Basham was Regional Sales Director for Northern Europe at Technetix and previously worked as Head of Product and Application Engineering at PPC.

At DKT, Basham is not only responsible for product management and development in the Coaxial area but will also actively support the company in future business development and the expansion of key accounts. Anthony is looking forward to his new position: "I am very much excited to be able to develop solution-oriented new products at DKT as part of an innovative and dynamic team, which will help to increase the end customer satisfaction and at the same time reduce OPEX of the network operators."

"We are convinced that in Anthony we have found a perfect addition to our team from the coaxial engineering sector. This enables us to ensure that we will not only grow in the FTTH area but that we can also continue to provide existing and new customers with sophisticated and innovative solutions for their HFC networks," commented Christian Emborg, CEO of DKT A/S, on the new addition in his team.

Synamedia acquires watermarking firm ContentArmor

Synamedia, the world's largest independent video software provider, announced in August it has acquired ContentArmor, a leading privately-held developer of forensic watermarking solutions for the media and entertainment industry.

By adding ContentArmor's technology, patents and expertise to its broad portfolio of security offerings, including its Synamedia EverGuard anti-piracy services, Synamedia is confident it can meet video service providers' edge and 5G security demands. Synamedia tells *Broadband* its anti-piracy capabilities are consequently boosted for movie studios and sports rightsholders, across both OTT and direct-to-consumer (D2C) services.

Edge watermarking is the most effective, secure and scalable approach for detecting and disrupting content leaks, especially in today's fluid and encrypted environment and Synamedia anticipates a substantial market opportunity for it, particularly to stream premium content over 5G. ContentArmor's edge watermarking technology reduces storage and CDN bandwidth requirements by eliminating the need to duplicate video streams. It improves cache performance and speeds the process of embedding the watermarks, while reducing risk by performing security-critical operations in the network rather than in the client.

Paul Segre, Synamedia CEO, said, "ContentArmor's expertise and investment in R&D has resulted in more than 30% growth year-on-year since its inception, along with an impressive patent portfolio. This acquisition further accelerates our industry-leading security business, with edge watermarking fueling new opportunities in the D2C streaming space and for 5G. In the security domain, our clear objective is to meet the needs of all video service providers that care about anti-piracy. The acquisition of ContentArmor strengthens that proposition."

The ContentArmor team will continue to be based in Rennes, France, which will form a new R&D hub for Synamedia's industry leading security and video solutions.

For more information, see www.synamedia.com

Virgin Media O2 expands gigabit network

Last month Virgin Media O2 announced it has added one-and-a-half million homes to its gigabit network, meaning that more than half of its footprint can now access hyperfast broadband speeds.

Virgin Media's Gig1 broadband service, with average download speeds of 1,130Mbps, is the fastest available from a major broadband provider in the UK - 14 times quicker than the national average.

As part of today's gigabit switch-on, Virgin Media O2 has upgraded its network in locations across the UK, with residents in towns and cities such as Bournemouth, Bristol, Northampton, Sunderland, Wolverhampton, Wigan and York now able to benefit from enhanced connectivity.

Lutz Schüler, Chief Executive Officer

More than 8 million homes in all four UK nations are now able to access Virgin Media's Gig1 service, making the operator the largest gigabit broadband provider in the UK.

By the end of 2021, Virgin Media O2 will deliver gigabit broadband speeds across its entire network of more than 15 million homes.

Lutz Schüler, Chief Executive Officer at

Virgin Media O2, said: "We are upgrading the UK to next-generation connectivity and today we're hitting another important milestone with more than half of our network now able to access gigabit speeds.

Digital Infrastructure Minister Matt Warman MP said, "We've kicked off the biggest broadband build in British history thanks to £5 billion of government funding alongside significant investment from telecoms firms. I welcome Virgin Media O2's ambitious plans to speed up the delivery of lightning-fast gigabit connectivity to communities across the UK and give people what they need to keep pace with the digital revolution."

For more information, see www.virginmedia.com/broadband/gigabit

Liberty Global trials Teleste's Distributed Access Architecture in UK

Liberty Global have partnered with Teleste to trial their Distributed Access Architecture to support their GIGAbit network. The expectation is that customers will benefit from increased reliability and capacity thanks to the new DOCSIS technology.

Already successfully executed in Coventry and Warrington, Distributed Access Architecture (DAA) is now being rolled out in Baguley, near Manchester. DAA is a new way of building DOCSIS networks and is being trialled to allow the Data Core and Edge Devices to bring data and video services to Liberty Global customers in a real operational environment, Broadband is informed, with speeds of over 1Gbps.

Teleste has worked closely with the engineering teams of both Liberty and Virgin Media over the last 12 months to fully integrate the technology, as part of a larger initiative to improve the performance of Liberty Global's Access network – the network used in the last mile between technical facilities and customers' homes. The hope is that customers will receive a more reliable service and better experience. This architecture also delivers more capacity efficiency, allowing Liberty Global to continually deliver wide-scale Gigabit speeds quickly and more cost effectively. It is powered by CIN (Converged Interconnect Network) technology which digitises the Access network, and will replace traditional analogue transmission in this space. This CIN will also support growing B2B services, mobile backhaul and 5G, and is a key enabler in LG's Fixed Mobile Convergence journey.

Coline Buechner, Chief Network Officer, said, "In today's rapidly changing competitive landscape, it is vital that Liberty Global continues to deploy new and innovative solutions to ensure network continuity and ever-increasing bandwidth capacity for our customers."

"After working closely with Virgin Media and its partners over the last year, it is satisfying to see this new technology successfully deployed and providing new opportunities and bandwidth within the existing HFC Network," said Hanno Narjus, Senior VP Teleste Networks.

For more information, see www.libertyglobal.com

UK Connect receives 5G accreditation

UK Connect, the country's construction connectivity specialists provides super-fast, fibre-speed non-fixed line wireless and broadband services for the country's housebuilding community. It has been officially granted '5G for Enterprise Branch Specialisation' by wireless networking equipment brand Cradlepoint. This is notable because as yet, UK Connect is the sole construction connectivity provider to achieve this status.

UK Connect told *Broadband Journal* that they are the only company currently permitted to install Cradlepoint systems used for the establishment of 5G networks on UK residential and commercial construction sites. It is thought that this development will demonstrate how 5G can directly deliver greater digital adoption, leading to increased ROI from a safer, smarter and more efficient construction journey, benefiting all involved.

The '5G for Enterprise Branch Specialisation' is a Cradlepoint standard identifying and recognising partner organisations, to achieve this accreditation, UK Connect had to meet a host of stringent criteria, including an already established position as a Cradlepoint Premier Partner.

UK Connect also needed to pass a number of tests to receive the specialisation certificate. This ranged from completing an in-depth programme of sales and technical courses to demonstrating proficiency in working with Cradlepoint's 5G systems and the ability to sell them strategically, according to an outline business plan.

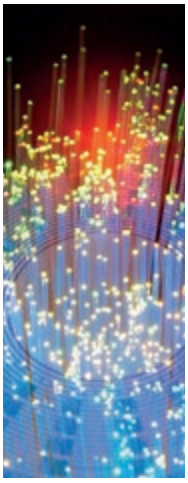
Darryl Brick, VP Partner Sales, EMEA from Cradlepoint said: "UK Connect is a highly skilled Cradlepoint partner and their expertise will guide our customers through the Pathway to 5G and help evolve their networks successfully. The team of dedicated sales and technical professionals at UK Connect, as well as their expertise in several key vertical markets, will help us guide customers on the journey beyond the wires."

PJ Farr, UK Connect's Managing Director said: "Big congratulations to the whole of the company in coming together to achieve this result. Receiving this specialisation certification is a game-changer."

For more information, see www.ukconnect.com

BT Trials New Hollow Core Fibre Optic Cable

BT announced in June that they've begun trials of a new type of hollow core optical fibre cable which could in theory be more resistant to damage. It is hoped that it will also deliver better performance (e.g. latency) for future broadband ISP and mobile connectivity services.



At present most conventional single-mode optical fibre cables work to guide laser light through solid glass cores, which need to be extremely transparent in order to avoid signal loss. Nevertheless, even the clearest of fibres will still have a slight loss over distance (akin to around 0.142 decibel per kilometre) and solid glass fibres struggle to carry very high-power transmissions, especially in short pulses.

Some years ago BT began reporting on the development of a new type of optical fibre cable – hollow core fibre – that could put right some of these problems. Essentially, these cables have an air-filled central core (i.e. light travels faster through the air than glass), with an outer ring of glass to help guide the laser beam. Since then the technology has continued to be refined but should go some way to improving broadband performance in the future.

For more information, see www.newsroom.bt.com/bt-kicks-off-trials-of-revolutionary-new-optical-fibre