

Introduction to

UK Fibre Connectivity Forum

Presented by Askar Sheibani, Chair

*UK Fibre
Connectivity Forum*





Our vision:

“Full fibre connectivity across all parts of the UK in all commercial and residential buildings. This will be high speed and affordable and delivered on a level playing field for all stakeholders.”



Our mission:

***“To be a vocal group, lobbying,
influencing and educating policy
makers as to the most fair and efficient
way to put an end to the digital divide.”***

Background

- **March 2017**
- **Organised by Sorrento Networks**
- **'Can Fibre Technology Revolutionise the UK Economy?'**
- **Speakers: BT Group, CityFibre, Colt**
- **Concluded with the overwhelming demand for the creation of a dedicated Fibre Connectivity Forum**



Key Objectives

- To give a loud, strong and collective voice to the UK Fibre optic industry at a grass roots level.
- To provide relevant and honest information to influencers and policy makers.
- To pursue a strategy leading to high quality, fast connectivity across the UK, regardless of the provider.

Key Objectives

- To promote Fibre to the Premises as a crucially important utility.
- To identify the problems and seek out solutions, focusing on the need and how we propose to meet it.
- To support the government in introducing sound and innovative digital policies relevant to the present global economic conditions.

Forum Discussion Topics

- **Funding and Investment** - *Access to funding; new sources of capital; input to the Forum provided by one of the UK's largest and longest established investment houses*
- **Government Programmes (Local Full Fibre Networks and 5G)** - *Forum support from the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport.*



Forum Discussion Topics

- **Access to Fibre** - Dark fibre access; BT; Openreach; ISP competition; Ofcom regulations; rural landscape challenges; etc.
- **Industry Skills Shortage** - Need for qualification standardisation; lack of cohesive training programmes across providers; lack of suitable digital connectivity apprenticeships; etc.
- **Impact of Brexit** - The government's Post-Brexit Digital Strategy; roll-out of 5G, data security; etc.



Inaugural Meeting of UKFCF

- **First quarterly meeting**
- **September 2017**
- **Held at Grant Thornton, London**
- **Topics:**
 - **UK Fibre Optic Connectivity Landscape**
 - **Universal Services Obligation**
 - **Business Rates and Fibre Tax**
 - **Openreach Dark Fibre Access**
 - **The Digital Divide**



Deeside Business Forum Connectivity Conference

- Supported DBF's connectivity conference
- February 2018
- Held at Coleg Cambria, North Wales
- Speakers: DCMS, ITS Technology Group, FibreSpeed, Pinacl, Aquacomms
- Overwhelming support for fibre optic connectivity in North Wales



UKFCF at the Houses of Parliament

- **March 2018**
- **Held at Terrace Pavilion, House of Commons**
- **Panel: FTTH Council Europe, DCMS, Hyperoptic, Fiber Carrier Association, Ventura Next**
- **Speakers: Lord Mendelsohn, Ian Lucas MP, Gavin Robinson MP**
- **Over 200 delegates**



Quarterly Meetings

- **Non-funded non-profit voluntary organisation**
- **Free membership, members contribute resources and expertise**
- **Involvement of the best of the nation's expertise and talent**



The Future

- Continuation of the campaign; especially targeting the public sector with a view to educate on the impact an FTTP revolution would have on their lives, communities and workplaces; changing mindsets
- Expand the think tank; welcome further key stakeholders; continue to provide a discussion platform and a voice for SMEs especially, etc.



The Future

- Strengthening our organisation and our voice through partnership with key organisations - continued support from Grant Thornton UK LLP, one of the world's largest professional services networks of independent accounting and consulting member firms, continued assistance from the Confederation of British Industry (CBI)
- Continued engagement with European counterparts - such as the FTTH Council Europe, learning best practice, information sharing etc.



Our Next Meeting

- **October 1st 2018 2pm – 5:30pm**

- **Grant Thornton, London**

- **Topics:**

- DCMS - Local Full Fibre Networks
- 5G Testbeds and Trials Programme
- Future Telecoms Infrastructure
- Barrier Busting
- NI Broadband Industry Report

- **Register:**

- <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/uk-fibre-connectivity-forum-quarterly-meeting-tickets-47414515091>

The logo for the UK Fibre Connectivity Forum. It features the text "UK Fibre" in a bold, black, sans-serif font, with "Connectivity Forum" in a bold, black, italicized sans-serif font below it. A thick yellow swoosh underline starts under "UK Fibre" and extends to the right, curving upwards to underline "Connectivity Forum".

***UK Fibre
Connectivity Forum***

Useful Links

Forum Inauguration - September 13th 2017

<http://bit.ly/2N87G3I>

November 27th 2017 - Quarterly Meeting

<http://bit.ly/2MBwv8O>

Parliamentary Debating Reception - March 21st 2018

<http://bit.ly/2wtSLHT>

Fibre Systems Magazine - Parliamentary Reception Review

<http://bit.ly/2ws5gmX>

June 18th 2018 Meeting - Presentations

<http://bit.ly/2wpVd1I>

LinkedIn Discussion Group - UK Fibre Connectivity Forum

<http://bit.ly/2omVQF9>

Thank You



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