

PRESS RELEASE

PRYSMIAN GROUP HOSTS THE FIRST NEXST TELECOM FORUM IN PARIS: "CREATING THE FOUNDATION OF 5G AND IOT"

FIBRE OPTIC NETWORKS ARE KEY FOR UPCOMING 5G TECHNOLOGY

US VERIZON: "THERE IS NO IOT, SMART DEVICE PROLIFERATION, CLOUD COMPUTING OR SELF-DRIVING CARS WITHOUT 5G. AND THERE IS NO 5G WITHOUT FIBRE"

Milan, April 12, 2018 - Prysmian Group, world leader in the energy and telecom cable systems industry, hosted its first "NEXST Telecoms Forum" in Paris "Creating the Foundation of 5G and IoT". The event saw the participation of some of the major European and worldwide telecom operators, independent Think Tanks and associations, as well as institutions and regulators. The meeting focused around the theme of 5G and related topics such as required infrastructures, the best technologies to support the development of the digital single market, where we are and where we're supposed to go, product and technology innovation, what's driving the demand for broadband and market trends.

It has been estimated that by 2021 global internet users will reach 4.6 billion, equal to 58% of the population, while networked devices and connections will be 27.1 billion, the equivalent of 3.5 devices per person. (source: Cisco VNI).

"5G, IoT, smart buildings and the virtualisation of networks are all fast approaching or already here, yet not totally defined yet. Even if we do not hear much about the passive infrastructure, we can observe a general tendency to take for granted that the networks will be ready," said Philippe Vanhille, Senior Vice President Telecom Business at Prysmian Group. "We are therefore in the condition of having to build the foundation of something that is not yet clearly defined, and that will evolve with time. There is now an emerging consensus about the necessity of a dense fibre network, the concept of "deep fibre" that would be the enabler of any kind of future need. On the other end, some also believe in radio or satellite as alternatives to fibre. We are in a constant debate, but the risk is that thinking too long will lead to not being ready on time, and that the passive infrastructure could become the bottleneck," continued Vanhille. "A significant investment is necessary to build the foundation of fast changing technologies. In the middle of these uncertainties, I can express one opinion: whatever you build, try to build it in a homogeneous and robust way, as future proof networks will need to have a high fibre density, multipurpose and flexible. Neglecting these aspects today leads to increasing the cost of running the network tomorrow, and to the necessity of re-investing later."

Lee Hicks, VP Network Planning at Verizon, brought his testimony to the meeting, sharing with the audience his view that demand and supply for next-generation passive optical networks will last well beyond 2020 as new technologies like 5G and IoT become reality. "Customers' needs continue to grow unabated: in home connected devices, enterprise services and security, wireless bandwidth demands, wireless evolution to 5G, and future applications like autonomous driving and smart cities," stated Hicks. "A better network is fundamental, and this is one of Verizon's core strength. Our architecture is based on deep fibre, a shared deep optical distribution network (NG-PON2). This provides for today's demands and all future services and applications. There is no IoT, smart device proliferation, broadband, cloud computing or self-driving cars without 5G. And there is no 5G without fibre. At Verizon "we love fiber"!"

Prysmian Group is therefore strongly committed to supporting Governments and Telecom operators in developing new broadband networks by continuing to invest in optical fibre and cable capacity, as well as in new technologies and know-how. These strategic infrastructures must be based on high quality and designed to provide high performance over time so as to be ready for the services of the future like 5G, smart cities, smart transportation and smart homes.

Prysmian Group

Prysmian Group is world leader in the energy and telecom cable systems industry. With almost 140 years of experience, sales of about €7.9 billion in 2017, over 21,000 employees across 50 countries and 82 plants, the Group is strongly positioned in high-tech markets and offers the widest possible range of products, services, technologies and know-how. It operates in the businesses of underground and submarine cables and systems for power transmission and distribution, of special cables for applications in many different industries and of medium and low voltage cables for the construction and infrastructure sectors. For the telecommunications industry, the Group manufactures cables and accessories for voice, video and data transmission, offering a comprehensive range of optical fibres, optical and copper cables and connectivity systems. Prysmian is a public company, listed on the Italian Stock Exchange in the FTSE MIB index.

Media Relations

Lorenzo Caruso
Corporate and Business Communications Director
lorenzo.caruso@prysmiangroup.com

Investor Relations

Cristina Bifulco
Investor Relations Director
mariacristina.bifulco@prysmiangroup.com