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Welcome

Welcome to the Case Communications February 2011 Newsletter.



Case Communications launch new industrial fibre-optic patch panels

Case Communications announce the launch of their new industrial fibre-optic patch panels, ideally suited to installations where space is at a premium.

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Consumer panel calls for ban on use of 'up to' in broadband advertising

The Communications Consumer Panel has proposed that broadband advertisers should be banned from using the phrase at all.

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Huawei open to US investigation

The the company that has offered to provide London Underground with a free mobile network says it would welcome a formal investigation by US authorities after security concerns.

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Intel launches high speed Thunderbolt connector

Chip manufacturer Intel is to roll out a new technology for connecting computers and peripherals that promises transfer speeds twice as fast as USB 3.

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Feedback

Tell us your thoughts

If you have something interesting to say or comments about the newsletter, please feel free to email them to us: [Email feedback/Enquiry](#)

UK must embrace satellite broadband

The European Union wants the UK along with some other member states to make more effort to embrace satellite broadband technology.

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Internet allows people to work in their pyjamas

Advancements with the internet have enabled some people to work in their pyjamas, with eight percent of home workers doing this.

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Case Communications launch new industrial fibre-optic patch panels

Case Communications are pleased to announce the launch of their new industrial fibre-optic patch panels. Supplied for rack mount or DIN rail mounting, the patch panels are supplied from 12-core to 48-core and can be fitted with a number of industry standard connectors.



The Case Communications Compact Fibre Termination/Splicing Unit is ideally suited to installations where space is at a premium. In addition to providing a fibre termination and patching point, the units can also be used as simple through splicing enclosures or spur units, or combinations of these.

There are various mounting options available including DIN rail, C-rail and panel mounting. This allows for the unit to be located and mounted virtually anywhere inside a rack, potentially saving space and reducing cable runs. Incoming plant cable(s) can be routed in

from the top or bottom (up to four entries). Cables are secured within the integral adjustable clamps.

A range of cable sizes can be secured from 6mm to 22mm \varnothing . Optional central strength member anchor points are also available.

Access to the inside of the unit is quick and easy by undoing the two quarter-turn fasteners and removing the steel protection cover.

A laser warning sign located on the removable cover alerts users to the fact that hazardous laser radiation may be present at the unit or contained therein.

The unit has in-built fibre management ensuring that the minimum bend radius is adhered to. Integral splice cassettes with built-in 12-fibre management make splicing safe and convenient.

Fibre expansion kits are available comprising an additional 12-way splice cassette loaded with fibre pigtails, and replacement bulkhead panel pre-loaded with bulkhead connectors.

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Consumer panel calls for ban on use of 'up to' in broadband advertising

In response to the Committee of Advertising Practice (CAP) consultation on the use of the words 'up to' in broadband advertising, the communications consumer panel (CCP) have proposed that advertisers should be banned from using the phrase at all. The ASA launched a review into advertising practice within the broadband industry last year in the hope of avoiding consumers being misled by terms such as 'unlimited' and 'up-to'.

Various proposals were put forward in the consultation document, including keeping the current policy used by the ASA, or restricting the use of speeds that are quoted to ensure that they are available to a certain proportion of users connected to the service advertised.

The CCP, however, seem to be taking a simplistic approach to this, calling for the abolition of the term 'up to' in describing speeds and instead requiring broadband providers to quote only a single speed qualified by a description of what proportion of users can get this speed.

Anna Bradley, Chair of the Communications Consumer Panel said, "The current approach of advertising 'up to' broadband headline speeds is no longer credible or sustainable and is causing widespread scepticism amongst consumers. I would like to see 'up to' replaced by a typical speed description, such as 'half of our customers receive at least xMb.'"

This could also be misleading to consumers looking for broadband services. Under CCP proposals, ISPs will be restricted to either stating a high speed and saying only a small proportion of users will get this speed (with the rest not being aware of what the average is), or advertising a lower speed, with those who can get the highest speeds not being aware of the full potential of the product.

It might be more sensible to allow broadband providers to state the maximum speed of the service **and** to provide an average speed range that users might typically expect to get from the product – eg. 'maximum speed 40Mbps, 20-28Mbps received by two-thirds of users' – to give consumers an indication of the maximum achievable as well as what they are likely to achieve.





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Huawei open to US investigation



Chinese telecom equipment maker Huawei, the company that has offered to provide the London Underground with a free mobile network worth £50m in time for the Olympics in 2012, has said it would welcome a formal investigation by US authorities after a takeover bid was halted because of security concerns.

Huawei made the appeal in an [open letter](#) on its website.

Last week, a US security panel rejected Huawei's purchase of American computer company 3Leaf systems. Huawei was founded by ex-Chinese army officer Ren Zhengfei, and there are concerns it still has military links.

'Misperceptions'

The company has played down any ties to either the military or China's government. In its letter, Huawei said that "over the past 10 years, as we have been investing in the US, we have encountered a number of misperceptions".

It said that these included unfounded and unproven claims of close connections with the Chinese military, disputes over intellectual property rights, allegations of financial support from the Chinese government and threats to the national security of the US.

"We sincerely hope that the United States government will carry out a formal investigation on any concerns it may have about Huawei," the company said in the letter.

Blocked deal

Huawei, which has also had earlier US deals blocked on security grounds, bought 3Leaf in May 2010 for \$2m (£1.2m), but review by the Committee of Foreign Investment in the United States said the deal should not go ahead.

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Intel launches high speed Thunderbolt connector



Chip manufacturer Intel has announced the roll-out of a new technology for connecting computers and peripherals. The system, known as Thunderbolt, promises transfer speeds twice as fast as USB 3. However it won't reach its theoretical maximum because Intel has opted to use copper wires rather than fibre optic cables. The company said it would gradually move to higher speeds over time.

Apple will become the first manufacturer to use Thunderbolt, on its Macbook Pro computers. The Cupertino firm is said to have been a major driver of its development, although it remains to be seen how many other manufacturers will adopt the new standard.

Light Peak

Intel has been working on the technology for several years. It was first announced under the codename Light Peak in 2009. At launch, its top speed will be limited to 10 Gigabits per second - twice as fast as USB 3, but still well below the theoretical maximum using optical cables. Intel claims that future versions will be able to reach 100 Gb/sec.

All methods for connecting computers to external devices have a theoretical top speed for transferring data

- USB 2.0 – 480 Mb/second
- Firewire 800 – 800 Mb/second
- USB 3.0 – 4.8 Gb/second
- Thunderbolt copper – 10 Gb/second
- Thunderbolt fibre optic – 100 Gb/second

The faster data transfer rates are likely to be welcomed by those consumers who use high-definition video, said Sarah Rottman Epps, an analyst with Forrester Research. "This isn't an innovation that consumers have been asking for, but it's one they'll appreciate," she said, "especially when transferring video, as that's when [USB] starts to feel slow."

The system also promises to reduce the number of cables a user has connecting their computer setup. It is able to carry multiple signal types at the same time, enabling power, display and peripherals to use a single cable. However, in the short term, users may need to invest in special adaptors to connect their older devices onto Thunderbolt sockets.

Its arrival on the consumer market also raises questions about the future of other connector standards, such as USB and Firewire. Thunderbolt's most high profile supporter, Apple, is expected to gradually transition to a single connector, according to Karen Haslam, editor of Macworld UK.

"In the long run there will be no need for Apple to support these multiple formats with individual ports - existing products can run through an adaptor," she said.

Not everyone is convinced that Thunderbolt will become the lone standard. Ian Chiu, editor of the website Everythingusb.com told BBC News that the cost of components could put off some manufacturers. "I don't really know how Intel will make Thunderbolt appealing to all the other first-tier PC manufacturers," he said. "HP, Sony, Dell, Acer, Asus make most of their money from the low-end and medium-end notebooks. On the other hand, Apple's Macbook Pro line-up is targeted at the prosumers, professionals and other people who aren't so price conscious," said Mr Chiu.



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UK must embrace satellite broadband

The European Union wants the UK along with some other member states needs to make more effort to embrace satellite broadband technology.



According to recent reports the European Union says that a number of member states, including the UK, need to take action to ensure that they are embracing satellite broadband technology. Twenty one countries have been told to take urgent steps to introduce satellite broadband services.

In May of this year a European mobile satellite service is set to be launched under plans from the European Union. This will help to support a range of communications services. However, the UK and a number of other countries still have to implement the main instrument needed to

support the European Digital Agenda and comply with EU laws.

In a recent statement the European Commission Vice-President for the Digital Agenda Neelie Kroes said: "They have an important role to play in providing innovative services to businesses and citizens across Europe, including in rural or remote areas." She also stated that the implementation of this technology meant that broadband access would be available to more people.

John Brackenbury, Chairman of Avanti Communications, recently said that the market for satellite internet services was growing because of increased demand for broadband.

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Internet allows people to work in their pyjamas

A recent report has shown how advancements with the internet have enabled some people to work in their pyjamas, with eight percent of home workers doing this.

For many people the dream is to be able to work from home rather than having to join the rat race everyday and spend hours stuck in traffic in all weathers in order to get to work. Over recent years advancements with broadband and internet technology have helped to make this easier, with more and more people now able to work from home, creating far more flexibility and a far better balance in terms of working hours.



Once recent report has shown that there are more and more people that are now able to work from the comfort of their own homes. The report also went on to state that around eight percent of those that work from home do so in their pyjamas! Many are actually sitting on the settee with their pyjamas on and the television on as they work according to the report – a dream scenario for those that have to travel to work each day and sit in an office.

The Office for National Statistics has shown that home working has become more and more popular as a result of more advanced broadband access and connections, with many people now able to work remotely or even set up their own business at home. A survey showed that around eight percent of women working from home didn't get changed at all during the day, and twenty seven had held a business call whilst in the bath.

The number of people that work mainly from home out of the British workforce is now 2.9 percent, which is almost double the figure seen in 1996. However, over twenty five percent of workers said that they sometimes worked from home. The research also showed that ten percent of men who worked from home did this in a suit and tie.

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