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**Welcome**

Welcome to the Case Communications January 2011 Newsletter.

And a happy and successful New Year to all our readers!



**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](#)

**Case Communications launch new range of industrial media converters**

Case Communications are pleased to announce the launch of their new industrial media converter. The IMC-100FX-XX is a range of UTP to multi-mode or single fibre converters designed to extend the distance of Ethernet links in industrial environments.

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**Superfast UK broadband by 2015**

Government to invest a further £50m to "make sure the UK has the best broadband network in Europe by 2015".

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**EEC wants fourth generation mobile network available for 2013**

The European Commission in Brussels wants radio spectrum for wireless broadband—also known as the fourth-generation mobile network—available by 2013.

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**UK has worse wireless broadband than Mongolia**

The UK has slower wireless broadband networks than countries like Uzbekistan and Mongolia, says new report.

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## Case Communications launch new range of Industrial Media Converters

Case Communications are pleased to announce the launch of their new industrial media converter. The IMC-100FX is a range of UTP to multi-mode or single fibre converters designed to extend the distance of Ethernet links in industrial environments.



The converter is the first in a range of media converters capable of operating from -40°C to +75°C. It can be mounted on a wall or a DIN rail, and uses a 12V to 48V DC power source with reverse polarity protection.

### The range

There are three products in the range:

1. **IMC-100FX-ST-MM** 100Mbps UTP to multi-mode ST connector unit
2. **IMC-100FX-SC-MM** 100Mbps UTP to multi-mode SC connector unit
3. **IMC-100FX-SC-SM** 100Mbps UTP to single-mode SC connector unit

The IMC-100FX uses 'store and forward' technology to allow speed mis-matching. An auto-MDI/MDIX UTP port avoids the need for cabling changes and four dip switches adjust the forwarding mode, and the link loose forwarding (LLF) feature.

The Case Industrial Media Converter can be installed on a DIN rail or wall mounting for maximum flexibility.

The IMC-100FX range uses an IP30-compliant housing and supports 6,000 VDC Ethernet ESD protection and EFT 3,000 VDC protection for power lines.

Case Communications have already received advance orders for a number of IMC-100FXs, the first release of the product being multi-mode with ST connectors.

[More information on Industrial Media Converters](#)

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## Superfast UK broadband by 2015

Jeremy Hunt, Secretary of State for Olympics, Culture, Media and Sport, said the Government would invest a further £50m on projects to have a digital hub in every community and "make sure the UK has the best broadband network in Europe by 2015".

Although more than 70 per cent of households in the UK subscribe to broadband, a recent study by Ofcom showed that the majority of UK homes cannot access broadband speeds of 24 Mbits/sec.



The proposed hubs are one way of linking many neighbourhoods, including those in remote or rural areas, with high-speed connections. Extending the internet access to the home however will require additional investment by communities, internet service providers or other investors.

Mr Hunt said: "Our broadband infrastructure is towards the middle rather than at the head of the pack.

"Only 15 per cent of UK subscribers currently have speeds above five mbps, compared with 65 per cent in South Korea.

"And only 0.2 per cent of UK households had a superfast broadband connection at the end of last year – compared to 12 per cent in Sweden and 34 per cent in Japan."

The publication of the strategy today comes shortly after BT confirmed it is ready to contribute further funding. It has already funded projects such as the Cornish and the Scilly Isles rollout.

The proviso for investing further is if the company can win public money in any of the Government's tenders aimed at bringing fibre to hard-to-reach areas.

The latest funding brings the total planned public investment into next generation broadband to £830m.

With the latest funds, also included in the total is the £530m set out under the comprehensive spending review for the life of this Parliament, as well as £250m from the underspend on the digital switchover help scheme.

Caroline Spelman, Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, said:

"Rolling out superfast broadband is probably the single most important thing we can do to ensure the sustainability of our rural communities in the 21st Century and end the digital divide.

"Reliable internet access is vital for business and education, and will help to promote social inclusion and improve life in rural areas right across the country.

"The new broadband strategy is a vital part of our commitment to improving the lives of people living in rural communities."



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## EEC wants fourth generation mobile network available for 2013

The European Commission in Brussels wants radio spectrum for wireless broadband—also known as the fourth-generation mobile network—available by 2013.



In a memo issued before the European Union Telecom Ministers' meeting last month it said: "the commission is convinced that its proposal to fix 2013 as the target date is necessary and realistic," Neelie Kroes, EU Commissioner for the digital agenda, said they, "will encourage those member states that have had difficulties in making progress so far and are working hard to overcome those difficulties to meet this deadline."

Ms. Kroes said individual extensions until 2015 could be made possible if absolutely necessary.

At the meeting, she will tell ministers about plans to launch a public consultation on roaming ahead of the review of current EU rules on international roaming, which is due in June 2011. Ms. Kroes's predecessor, Viviane Reding, imposed a cap on intra-EU mobile roaming charges.

"In particular, she will underline that price regulation should always be a last resort and that it is essential to consider other options which could be used to create a competitive internal market for roaming," the memo said.

The commission wants the difference between national and roaming charges to approach zero by 2015.

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## UK has worse wireless broadband than Mongolia

The UK has slower wireless broadband networks than countries like Uzbekistan and Mongolia, according to Wireless Intelligence, part of the GSM Association.

While regulator Ofcom and network carriers ponder how to move Britain onto 4G LTE services &ndash; with arrival not expected until 2014 at the earliest &ndash; smartphone surfers in Uzbekistan, Poland and other countries are already using commercial rollouts of the technology.



The UK, by comparison, is two generations behind, relying as it does on HSPA 3G technology. The WI report says customers using these services can get access at up to 5.6Mbps/sec, but average download speeds are 1.5Mbps/sec.

Meanwhile, trials of LTE by O2 have demonstrated download speeds of between 65Mbps/sec and 150Mbps/sec.

### Stepping stone

In between these two services is a stepping stone technology known as HSPA+ that offers significant throughput improvements on its predecessor, with rates starting from 14.4Mbps/sec.

Although Britons might expect to be lagging behind Japan and Singapore, who are already using commercial HSPA+ services, it might come as a surprise to find that networks in Armenia, Mongolia, Indonesia and the Faroe Islands have also stolen a march on the UK.

HSPA+ services are expected to arrive in the UK to alleviate network congestion, but no carrier has so far announced a commercial launch.

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