



## Ethernet Active Line Access

*Maximising the Scope for Competitive Innovation in Ethernet Access*

Dear Colleague,

As you may know, Ofcom launched its consultation: "Future Broadband - Policy Approach to Next Generation Access" on 26<sup>th</sup> September 2007. This was followed by a stakeholder event on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2007 where Ofcom presented our key proposals to a wide range of industry organisations and announced our intention to promote competition in higher speed active line access.

You, and your network colleagues, are now invited to attend an **Ofcom technical workshop which will explore in more detail the key competitive characteristics of a fit-for-purpose wholesale Ethernet Active Line Access (ALA) product. This workshop forms part of a series of industry events on this subject.**

**Please note that the workshop will have a strong technical bias. We would therefore urge you to forward this invite to appropriate people within your organisation who may wish to attend.**

Location: Riverside House, 2a Southwark Bridge Road, London, SE1 9HA.

Date: 26<sup>th</sup> November, 10.00am – 12.30 followed by lunch and break out sessions until 15.30.

A key challenge for Ofcom in setting out its regulatory approach to very high speed broadband networks is to ensure that a competitive market develops.

As set out in our consultation, Ofcom is proposing two principal measures - a passive sub loop unbundling solution and an active line access product - to ensure that the opportunity to invest in next generation access networks and services is not limited to just a few communications providers.

This workshop will examine the second of these two options. The consultation envisages an active line access (ALA) product which minimises, as far as is possible, the difference in innovation potential when compared with an unbundling remedy such as sub loop unbundling. It is recognised that this will require a step change in the effectiveness of the development process used for similar bitstream products today.

As part of the Carrier Ethernet World Congress in September 2007, Ofcom chaired a seminar to stimulate debate on the development and standardisation of this Ethernet ALA product (see <http://www.ofcom.org.uk/consult/condocs/nga/seminar/>)

The November workshop will build on the seminar to start defining the key characteristics of a highly configurable product that will give those relying on it the maximum possible control over the potential for innovation from the underlying network. The September seminar agreed that there were five key characteristics:

- Flexible aggregation at different points in the network
- Quality of service
- Security issues
- Ability to support multi-cast
- Ability to accommodate flexible customer premises equipment (CPE)

The November workshop will revisit the debate on the key characteristics of Ethernet ALA before focusing on multicast and CPE as two subjects offering the greatest challenges to standardisation. It is a standalone event which does not require prior knowledge of Ofcom consultations or events.

To reserve a place please email [stakeholder.events@ofcom.org.uk](mailto:stakeholder.events@ofcom.org.uk) reference 'Ofcom Ethernet Active Line Access technical workshop' as soon as possible as places are limited and will be issued on a first-come-first served basis.

We look forward to seeing you at the workshop.

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Peter Ingram". The signature is stylized with a long horizontal stroke underneath the name.

**:: Eur Ing Peter Ingram BSc (Hons) CEng FIET**

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