



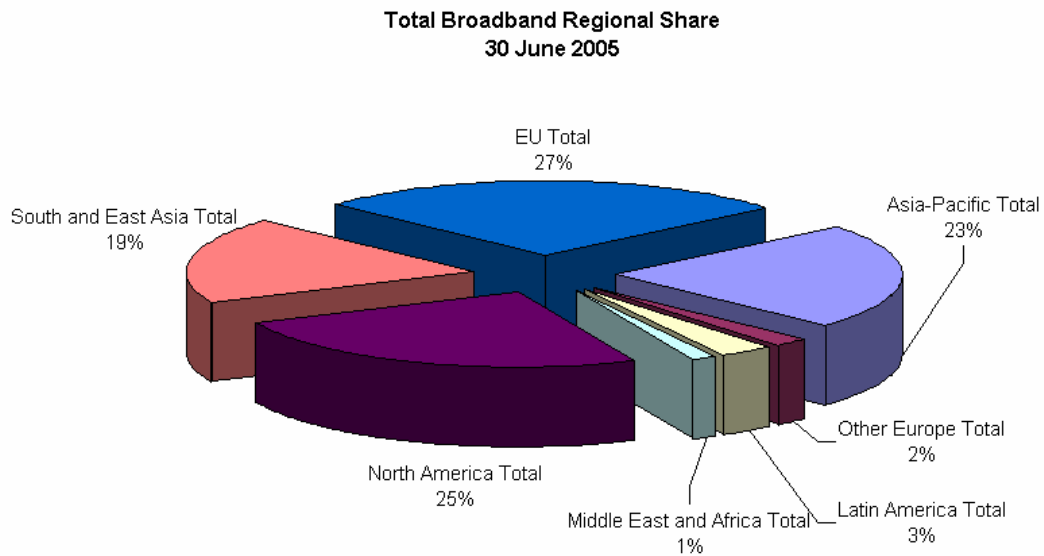
**NEWS RELEASE**

Q2 05 DSL subscribers - 1  
Issue Date: 20 September 2005

**BOOMING BROADBAND ADDS MORE THAN 24 MILLION**  
- **DSL dominates growth**

In the first six months of 2005, another 24.5 million homes and businesses around the world moved to broadband, according to the latest data produced for the DSL Forum by industry analyst Point Topic. By 30 June 2005, there were 176 million broadband connections, with digital subscriber line (DSL) accounting for almost three-quarters of total broadband growth in the year, so far. Almost 115 million now choose DSL for broadband access around the world, with 17.7 million subscribers added in the first half of 2005 – more than two and a half times the 6.8 million growth in other broadband technologies.

More than eight million signed up to broadband services in the European Union, in the period, with 81% of all its subscribers choosing DSL. With 47.5 million subscribers, the EU is now the world's number one region for broadband, taking over from North America.



*Source: Data provided for the DSL Forum by Point Topic*

The USA remains the country with the largest broadband population in the world, at 38.2 million subscribers. It has seen 16% growth in DSL subscribers so far in 2005, compared with the 10% increase in other broadband access technologies. In 16 countries, at least one in ten people have a broadband connection – half of these nations are in Europe.

**Top countries: total broadband penetration of population, Q2 05  
30 June 2005**

(Countries with over one million broadband connections only)

Ranking	Country	Broadband Total Penetration by Population	Ranking	Country	Broadband Total Penetration by Population
1	South Korea	25.58	9	Israel	16.47
2	Hong Kong	22.94	10	Sweden	16.38
3	Netherlands	21.90	11	Japan	16.18
4	Denmark	21.47	12	France	13.89
5	Switzerland	20.13	13	UK	13.71
6	Canada	19.19	14	USA	13.14
7	Taiwan	17.81	15	Australia	10.62
8	Belgium	17.58	16	Spain	10.00

Source: Data provided for the DSL Forum by Point Topic

DSL remains the most popular broadband access technology around the world. According to Michael Brusca, chairman of the DSL Forum, "By using the existing copper telephone infrastructure and applying standards-based DSL technologies, with equipment that has been tested for interoperability and by deploying our growing range of robust, practical technical solutions for deployment and management of broadband services, countries can accelerate their broadband development efficiently and cost-effectively."

China has been fast-tracking its broadband development and is the first country in the world to reach over 20 million subscribers. Of the established DSL nations, the fastest growing are Australia at 40%, the UK at 37% and Brazil at 27%, all among the 15 countries with over one million subscribers to broadband DSL.

**Countries with more than one million DSL subscribers  
30 June 2005**

Ranking	Country	Total DSL Q2 2005	Ranking	Country	Total DSL Q2 2005	Ranking	Country	Total DSL Q2 2005
1	China	21,230,000	6	South Korea	6,678,107	11	Canada	2,921,259
2	USA	15,929,322	7	UK	5,691,000	12	Brazil	2,400,957
3	Japan	14,168,000	8	Italy	5,135,000	13	Netherlands	2,147,000
4	France	7,803,000	9	Taiwan	3,360,000	14	Australia	1,586,000
5	Germany	7,800,000	10	Spain	3,271,771	15	Belgium	1,149,350

Source: Data provided for the DSL Forum by Point Topic

Tim Johnson of Point Topic, says "Broadband is on track to achieve at least 200 million global subscribers by the end of 2005, with more than ten countries achieving 20% market penetration.

"Newer entrants to the broadband access markets are accelerating their deployment of services to catch up with the more established territories, adding to their global competitiveness. Monitoring new entrants' progress is a constant challenge that we have addressed by identifying local contributors to help collect robust data. We have been particularly assisted in this edition of our statistics by J'son and Partners in Russia, and the ISP Association of India."

"Exponential expansion of global subscribers to DSL over the past five years has been matched only by the dynamic development of the technology itself", said Michael Brusca. "Today, thanks primarily to the combined and unswerving efforts of technical experts from around 200 service providers and equipment manufacturers, working through consensus in the international DSL Forum, the DSL technology is the world's core resource for delivering multiple advanced services."

***About the DSL Forum***

**The DSL Forum** is tailoring DSL to meet the needs of the next generation of multi-media services and the online community. By developing new standards and embracing new applications, the forum works to streamline processes, define specifications and share best practices that set the stage for effective deployments, and explosive global DSL growth. It has set a target of 500 million broadband DSL subscribers by 2010. Established in 1994, the DSL Forum is an international industry consortium of over 200 leading service providers, equipment manufacturers and other interested parties. For more information about the DSL Forum, see [www.dslforum.org](http://www.dslforum.org).

Further regional or country data and charts are available from:

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