



**CHINA WIDENS BROADBAND LEAD TO FOUR MILLION LINES OVER USA
IN LAST QUARTER OF 2008**

South & East Asia Region shows impressive 49% IPTV growth in 2008

25 March 2009, Beijing, China – China has defied the global economic downturn by adding another 2.43 million lines of broadband technology in the last quarter of 2008, according to statistics released today by the Broadband Forum. The report, prepared for the Forum by industry analysts Point Topic (GBS database at <http://point-topic.com/home/gbs/>), shows China now leads the second largest country, the USA, by 4.29 million lines.

The global broadband and IPTV subscriber progress was announced by Robin Mersh, the COO of the Broadband Forum at today's keynote of the China Broadband Triple Play conference in Beijing.

Total broadband growth was strong as world broadband statistics for Q4 2008 show a 62.6 million broadband annual growth to 410.9 million broadband lines.

Top ten broadband countries

	2007 Q4	2008 Q4
China	66,564,400	83,366,000
USA	69,964,758	79,074,123
Japan	28,425,700	30,325,900
Germany	19,897,616	23,425,150
France	15,555,068	17,503,518
UK	15,728,900	17,392,800
South Korea	14,709,998	15,474,931
Italy	10,860,650	12,170,080
Brazil	7,477,400	9,633,300
Canada	8,658,689	9,386,846

Source: Point Topic (www.point-topic.com)

IPTV subscriber totals have now reached 21.7 million, which is an increase of 63 per cent on the end of 2007 figures.

IPTV subscribers per region

Region	2007Q4_Total	2008Q4_Total
Western Europe	7,045,860	10,388,000
North America	1,774,671	3,835,544
South & East Asia	1,840,000	3,615,000
Asia-Pacific	2,199,828	3,082,182
Eastern Europe	465,223	884,466
Latin America	8,991	21,495
Middle East & Africa	10,000	10,000
Global Total	13,344,573	21,836,687

Source: Data provided for the Broadband Forum by Point Topic (www.point-topic.com)

“During 2008, IPTV operators showed that TV over IP could be deployed on a large scale,” said John Bonsell, a Senior Analyst with Point Topic.

As expected, due to the global economic situation, broadband growth slowed, however all countries experienced overall growth during the last year. Regionally, over the last quarter, Latin America (7.55 per cent), Eastern Europe (6.22 per cent) and Middle East and Africa (4.76 per cent) were the best percentage growth performers, although all regions continued to report growth.

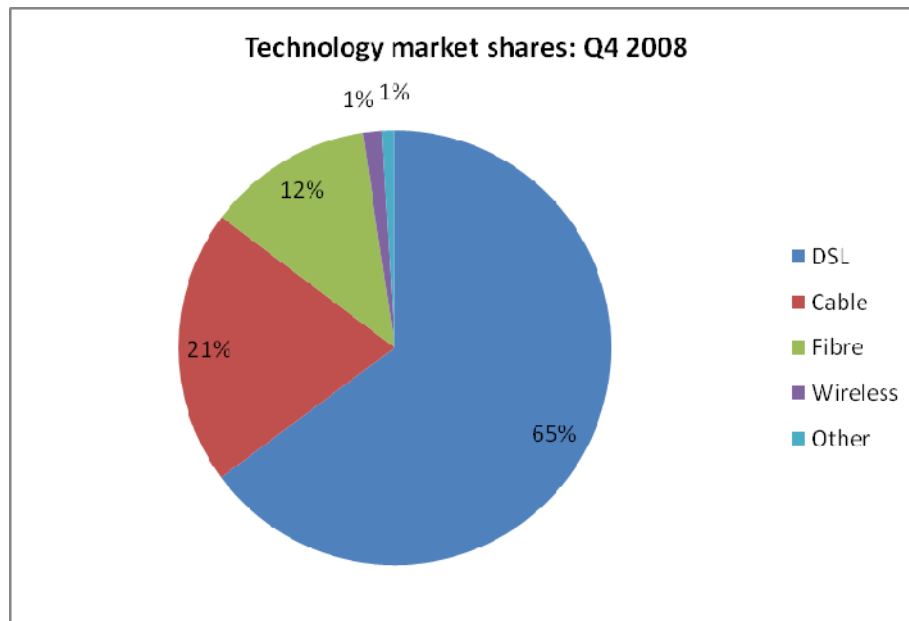
Region broadband view and growth

Region	2008 Q3		2008 Q4	
	Total	Total	Total	Growth
Western Europe	102,489,320	105,699,114	105,699,114	3.13%
South and East Asia	90,222,776	93,496,395	93,496,395	3.63%
North America	86,185,061	88,460,969	88,460,969	2.64%
Asia-Pacific	61,940,241	63,285,165	63,285,165	2.17%
Latin America	24,191,462	26,018,927	26,018,927	7.55%
Eastern Europe	20,671,116	21,956,239	21,956,239	6.22%
Middle East and Africa	11,419,696	11,962,810	11,962,810	4.76%

Source: Data provided for the Broadband Forum by Point Topic (www.point-topic.com)

In terms of technology, DSL continues to be the most popular broadband access technology, although fibre has grown twice as fast as either cable or DSL in the 12 months to Q4 2008. This should continue, given the number of new implementations and consumer and business demand for higher speeds. Value added services such as IPTV are also proving to be strong drivers for FTTx uptake and have driven this technology through the 50 million mark worldwide.

Technology market share



Source: Data provided for the Broadband Forum by Point Topic (www.point-topic.com)

“This report shows that despite the economic situation the world is facing, the demand for both broadband and IPTV continues to expand,” said George Dobrowski, Chairman and President of the Broadband Forum.

“The Forum continues to drive broadband innovation, and with the recent release of BroadbandSuite 3.0, which provides new IPTV management and fibre integration tools, we continue to ensure that the industry has all the tools and specifications it needs to optimise networks and to capture the full potential of broadband worldwide.”

To learn more about the Broadband Forum and BroadbandSuite 3.0, check out www.broadband-forum.org.

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About the Broadband Forum

The Broadband Forum mission is to develop the full potential of broadband. Focused on home-to-core network and management solutions, our standards empower providers to achieve more with their broadband deployment. Established in 1994 as the ADSL Forum and later as the DSL Forum, the Broadband Forum has seen its work over the past 15 years evolve from addressing physical layer ADSL transport specifications to advanced transport and management specifications for all forms of broadband. The Broadband Forum's formal BroadbandSuite™ Release Program and all technical reports are publicly available at www.broadband-forum.org.