

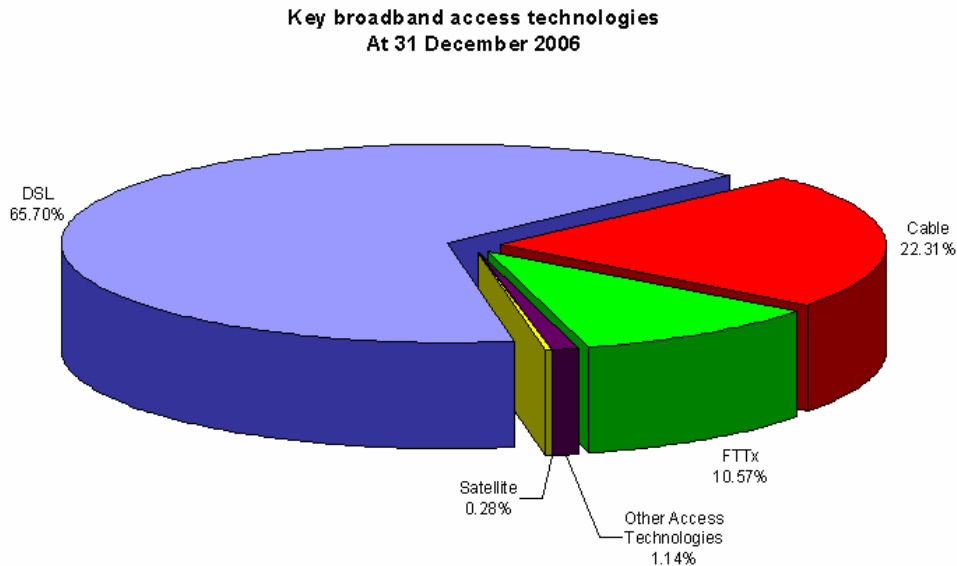


NEWS RELEASE

DSL Dominates Global Broadband Subscriber Growth – 66% of the 281 million broadband subscribers choose DSL

London, 27 March 2007 – In 2006, the number of DSL subscribers worldwide grew by more than 30% to reach close to 185 million at 31 December 2006. In the year, global broadband subscribers increased to more than 281 million, according to the latest statistics prepared for the international DSL Forum by industry analyst Point Topic. This meant that an increase of 67 million people subscribed to broadband in 2006 – with almost two-thirds of new subscribers selecting digital subscriber line technology (DSL) to deliver their broadband services.

Worldwide, DSL remains by far the most popular broadband access technology with a 65.7% market share. DSL accounts for almost 88% of all broadband subscribers in the Middle East and Africa – the fastest growing broadband region – and 81% in the European Union (EU). The EU added more than 17.6 million DSL subscribers in the year to maintain its position as the world's number one broadband and DSL region.



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

Of the other broadband access technologies, fibre to the home or other close location (FTTx), now delivers more than ten per cent of broadband services across the world. Less than one per cent of broadband is delivered by satellite, accounting for 784,750 subscribers.

**Global Market Share of Broadband Technologies
At 31 December 2006**

Technology	Number of subscribers	% of subscribers
DSL	184,934,032	65.70
Cable	62,810,493	22.31
FTTx	29,749,662	10.57
Other Access Technologies	3,213,646	1.14
Satellite	784,750	0.28
Total	281,492,583	100.00

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

In global terms, the USA is the world's largest broadband market at more than 57 million subscribers. China, the second largest market, is rapidly closing the gap and added 14.4 million broadband subscribers in 2006 – more than three million more than the USA – to reach 51.9 million. Thirteen countries now have over three million DSL subscribers, with a further three – the Netherlands (at 2,957,000 subscribers), Turkey (at 2,935,900) and Mexico (at 2,725,683) – fast approaching. In total, 26 nations have more than one million DSL subscribers, with Denmark, Argentina and Russia passing the figure in 2006.

**Top 20 Countries by Number of DSL Subscribers
At 31 December 2006**

Ranking	Country	DSL subscribers 4Q2006	Ranking	Country	DSL subscribers 4Q2006
1	China	37,120,000	11	Taiwan	3,851,050
2	USA	25,677,316	12	Canada	3,839,833
3	Germany	14,320,000	13	Australia	3,139,000
4	Japan	14,310,559	14	Netherlands	2,957,000
5	France	13,276,000	15	Turkey	2,935,900
6	UK	10,059,285	16	Mexico	2,725,683
7	Italy	8,398,575	17	Poland	1,835,171
8	South Korea	5,488,668	18	India	1,819,985
9	Spain	5,268,100	19	Sweden	1,502,300
10	Brazil	4,390,560	20	Belgium	1,485,758

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

“These latest broadband subscriber figures clearly show that DSL is the preferred delivery method for efficient, high speed broadband around the world,” said George Dobrowski, DSL Forum chairman and president. “With the growing popularity of IPTV over DSL, we expect the DSL market to continue grow in two dimensions; more customers and higher bit rates. Through our Technical Reports and BroadbandSuite™ initiative, which expands our work well beyond our DSL roots, the DSL Forum is delivering the specifications needed to provide customers an excellent experience and service providers the tools for efficient operations and management.”

DSL Forum Technical Reports (TRs) can be accessed online at:

<http://www.dslforum.org/techwork/treports.shtml>.

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About the DSL Forum

The DSL Forum is focused on defining the next-generation network architecture that enables service providers to successfully deliver multi-play services. The Forum’s work streamlines processes, automates network management and service delivery and enables interoperability of key components required for high-scale deployments that enable global broadband growth and service adoption. 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.

Further regional or country data and charts are available from:

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