



## **Blair looks to BSG to help deliver Broadband Election Pledge**

**London, 29 September 2004**

Tony Blair has made broadband one of his top ten priorities for a third term. In his party conference speech he said he wants to “bring broadband technology to every home in Britain that wants it by 2008”. This is a personal initiative by the PM to ensure that the benefits of broadband are brought to the many not the few, especially the poorest families whose children might otherwise be disadvantaged by not being able to access broadband at home. Blair is looking to work with the BSG to work out how this can be delivered in practice. The timing ties in with the target for broadband to all schools.

Government officials have given the following background:

### **Broadband**

- Government will work with industry and the education and charitable sectors to provide broadband for families on the lowest incomes.
- This will allow all children the opportunity to get the educational benefits of broadband at home, out of school hours.
- Their parents will also find it easier to access government services online

The initial target group would be families claiming the highest levels of tax credit - about 3 million families, especially those with a computer and interested in helping their children's education.

“We are in talks with the Broadband Stakeholder Group - a broad-based organisation that involves all the key players. It will take some months to get a deal together”, said a government official.