

Pushing for Universal Broadband Coverage

29 February 2016

techUK, 10 St Bride St, London, EC4A 4AD



Pushing for Universal Broadband Coverage: What do we mean and how do we get there?

Context

The Government has announced its intention to make sure that “every home and business can have access to fast broadband by the end of this Parliament”. This would go beyond the current BDUK targets for superfast broadband to 95% of premises and build on the Universal Service Obligation of 2 Mbit/s.

Getting as many people online and enjoying the benefits of what the internet can bring is an incredibly complex task involving digital skills, attitude and awareness among other issues. But in many ways the first step is ensuring that the underlying connectivity is available to them.

Aim

The aim of the event is to bring together industry and policy makers to discuss how best to facilitate coverage to the areas which are by definition the least commercially viable is a thorny issue with the debate including issues such as public funding, State Aid, community-led scheme, debt-financing and the creation of a Universal Service Obligation.

This will cover; how we should frame any target, the actions needed to meet that target and what lessons can be learned from other countries.

Agenda

14.30 – 14.45	Registration and Networking
14.45 – 15.00	Welcome and Introduction – Matthew Evans/Richard Hooper (BSG)
15.00 – 15.20	Policy Keynote (tbc) (DCMS official)
15.20 – 15.40	Rob Kenny Bandwidth requirements and defining the problem

15.40 – 16.00	Industry Keynote: tbc, BT
16.00 – 16.20	<u>Mani Manimohan</u> , GSMA International Perspectives of USFs
16.20 – 17.00	Panel Session 1: <u>How do we provide a universal level of good broadband</u> Issues: What is the best mechanism for doing so? Public funding, debt financing, community-led schemes, universal service fund? Chair: FTI Consulting Speaker 1: tbc, Virgin Media Speaker 2: tbc, BT Speaker 3: Chris Dawes, Airwave Q&A
17.00 – 17.15	Close and reception BSG