

# Measuring the breadth of Broadband Britain

Submitted by: Access to Broadband Campaign (ABC)

Thursday, 17 June 2004

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The latest Ofcom broadband report, issued 2nd June, shows a steady increase in the take-up of broadband with almost 40% of Internet users now connected by broadband. But are these statistics the whole picture? The risks of a 'never mind the quality; feel the width' feel-good factor are high says the ABC.

More... <http://www.liquidzope.com/abc/1n/pr20040608>

On Friday June 11th the ABC Exec swung into action to reply to the 21st Century statements from BT. Read their statements for yourselves here...

<http://www.btplc.com/News/Pressreleasesandarticles/Corporatenewsreleases/2004/nr0444.htm>

<http://www.btplc.com/News/Pressreleasesandarticles/Corporatenewsreleases/2004/nr0445.htm>

Brian Condon released the following statement in reply...

Life in the Slow Lane Continues

BT's announcement regarding its transition to a '21st Century Network' is welcomed but it demonstrates a lack of ambition says the UK's leading broadband campaign group. They argue it is:

Not ambitious enough – reluctant to launch Fibre to the Home in the 2010 timescale

Vague – no clarity on the sorts of services they expect to launch, the types of data speeds they envisage. No clear statement of the potential benefits to customers

Heavy on benefits for BT and its shareholders and light on benefits for users. The massive cash savings seem not to be destined to reduce costs to end users but to grow BT's cash generating ability.

MORE.....<http://www.liquidzope.com/abc/1n/pr20040610>

Also on Friday 11th June Brian Condon CEO, Andrew Macdonald Event Organiser and Richard Rymill ABC Office and Conference Marketing all met with the Scottish Executive, Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) and Scottish Enterprise to work out the detail of the next ABC Conference to be held at Aviemore in the Highlands in a brand new state of the art conference facility on 2nd and 3rd November 2004.

**MARK YOUR DIARIES YOU WILL NOT WANT TO MISS THIS EVENT!**

While strongly featuring Scotland, it is YOUR UK conference with powerful input from the UK government. All the English RDAs will be there, plus OFCOM, DTI and other Government bodies. Plus the usual rich mix of Community Activists and Solution providers.

Scotland is a very exciting place when it comes to digital innovation, it is home to 200 software and computer game companies, Biotech industries, tourism and more traditional industry, Scotland has numerous examples of exceptional solutions to technical, geographical and legislative challenges.

BUT even more importantly they have 400 of the 600 UK exchanges that BT have not set triggers for ... which means that without intervention these communities will never see what can be achieved with Broadband.

Sounds like a job for the ABC... who along with all our supporters in Government, Industry and the community can seek out the solutions needed where access is still a problem, then go on to sharing the delights of what can be achieved for the economy and the individual with true Broadband!!!!.

The provisional conference program is detailed here.....

<http://www.liquidzope.com/abc/1n/scotlandconf>

Your invitation to this conference will be with you by the end of June, along with more information on content, speakers, accommodation and registration.

Sponsors should give the ABC office a call to establish their interest and receive details of the sponsorship opportunities. 01937 541 553.

We mentioned that the situation after the BT announcement on LLU plus the latest from BT and OFCOM has stirred up a hornets nest but for most of us (including the ABC office) the potential outcomes are not at all clear!

Fortunately for us, we have Erol Ziya and Lindsey Annison among our executive team and we enclose two brilliantly written articles by them that make the situation clear in plain language.

These two articles will be posted to the ABC website in the next 48 hours

Network contention ratios and network congestion

A simple analogy by Erol Ziya June 2004 <http://www.liquidzope.com/abc/1n/newsletter200406/analogy>

RAB's – a good idea or have they ADIT?

By Lindsey Annison June 2004

<http://www.liquidzope.com/abc/1n/newsletter200406/rabs>

So what else is happening?

The Royal Show at Stoneleigh 4-7 July 2004

The ABC Broadband stand will ...

- Deliver a clear message to rural communities about the opportunities
- Help businesses plan how to implement broadband for business advantage

- Demonstrate the different technologies that deliver broadband-enabled services to rural locations.

New diary date. On 12th July at Harrogate, Digital Dales will be running a one-day Seminar with a wide appeal for both the starter and the expert. Starting with an intro

and update covering what's happening on the UK broadband scene, there will be a series

of workshops that include:

- Hardcore Wireless
- VOIP and internet Telephony
- Broadband and Video for business and leisure use (one of the fast developing applications)
- Interactive content. BT & the BBC will be there to show us how the BBC archives are to be delivered over the web on demand.
- Community content. Tveyes, an innovative search engine service for TV and radio, will show you their amazing press, radio and TV Media cutting service.
- Getting started. There are still many of you who are still struggling to get access for your business or community. This workshop will show you how and offer practical advice and assistance.

The Seminar will be priced at a really affordable level, the venue (The White Hart Hotel) is conveniently located and there is free parking.

If you want to book your attendance now, please e-mail back ASAP and we'll get the programme and registration form to you shortly.

Earlier this week ie on Tuesday 14th June at Harrogate,

Brian Condon, and Lindsey Annison spoke to the newly formed Harrogate Digital forum

about the benefits of digital technology and our work within it. A good example of how we are working with all the broadband stakeholders to help them to achieve their objectives.

[www.harrogatedigital.com](http://www.harrogatedigital.com)

Watch out for your invitation to the Scottish Conference at Aviemore but put the date in your diary right now! 2nd & 3rd November 2004.

Unsubscribe

Access to Broadband Campaign ( ABC)

at Rapid Response Marketing Ltd

19 Fountains Avenue, Boston Spa

West Yorks, LS23 6PX

Phone 01937 541 553 or 01937 529 362

Fax 08701 99 11 11

email [abc-office@rapidresponsemarketing.co.uk](mailto:abc-office@rapidresponsemarketing.co.uk)

[www.abcampaign.org.uk](http://www.abcampaign.org.uk)