

GLOBAL BROADBAND DSL SUBSCRIBERS APPROACH 26 MILLION

Latest DSL Deployment Figures Announced at London DSL Forum Summit

London, England - (August 27, 2002) - News that broadband DSL use has jumped to 25.58 million households and small businesses around the world was revealed by industry analyst firm Point Topic today at the DSL Forum Summit meeting. "Strong global subscriber growth of 36% in the last six months - an additional 6.8 million subscribers - is evidence of the demand for the real added value that broadband DSL delivers," says William Rodey, chairman of DSL Forum. "We are making good progress towards our target of 200 million DSL broadband subscribers worldwide by 2005."

"In the face of economic pressures, adding close to one million DSL subscribers in 6 months in the USA alone is a clear vote of confidence in broadband DSL and the benefits it delivers, by both residential and small business customers," Rodey says. "South Korea has already reached mass market status with DSL operating on 26.14% of all phone lines in the country."

Growth was strongest in the six months in South and South East Asia [124%], Middle East & Africa [123%] and Latin America [63.13%] but each of these regions had a deployment base of less than half a million DSL subscribers in use at the end of 2001. As of the first half of 2002, the Asia Pacific region has 42% of the world's broadband DSL subscribers, whereas North America currently has 26% of the world's DSL subscribers and Western Europe follows with 25%. Subscriber growth in Western Europe exceeded 50% in the six-month period, compared to 19.2% in North America.

"Today, most DSL enabled phone lines are residential, especially with broadband Internet access being such a key component of telecommuters' success." said Rodey, "Many lines are already being used for business purposes by people working at home during and beyond normal office hours, keeping colleagues working in other time zones informed, or managing their personal affairs on-line. Even before significant deployment of SHDSL services that are specifically designed for small and medium-sized businesses, we are seeing slightly more growth in business subscribers for DSL than for residential users."

"A total of one billion telephone lines around the world provide a robust, core global infrastructure capable of delivering DSL broadband to homes, offices, schools and governments. With that utility already in place to deliver the real economic and lifestyle benefits of broadband to the world's populations, DSL is simply the most effective and economic route to global broadband deployment," Rodey continued.

Tim Johnson of industry analyst firm, Point Topic says, "These figures show that there continues to be a robust demand for broadband. Even in the midst of economic slowdown and telecom crisis, DSL rollout is still going ahead at a high rate. Broadband is going to be highly competitive market, but it's clear that DSL will take the biggest share of it."

DSL Forum Working Group meetings continue in London until Thursday, 29 August 2002.

DSL Broadband Deployment Figures, 30 June 2002 - Point Topic <http://www.point-topic.com/>

Region	Total DSL Subscribers (000s)	% of global DSL Subscribers	Residential DSL Subscribers(000s)	Residential % of Users	Business DSL Subscribers (000s)	Business % of Users
Asia-Pacific	10,710.9	41.87	9,230.7	86.2	1,480.2	13.8
North America	6,571.7	25.69	5,086.8	77.4	1,484.8	22.6
Western Europe	6,377.8	24.93	5,325.1	83.5	1,052.6	16.5
South & South East Asia	1,120.9	4.38	921.4	82.2	199.5	17.8
Latin America	619.3	2.42	478.2	77.2	141.1	22.8
Eastern Europe	72.6	0.28	43.6	60.0	29.0	40.0
Middle East & Africa	107.2	0.42	84.9	79.2	22.3	21.0
Global Totals	25,580.30	2.81	21,170.7	82.8	4,409.5	17.2