



ORGANISATION FOR ECONOMIC  
CO-OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT



# Fibre investment and competition

ECTA

Brussels, Belgium

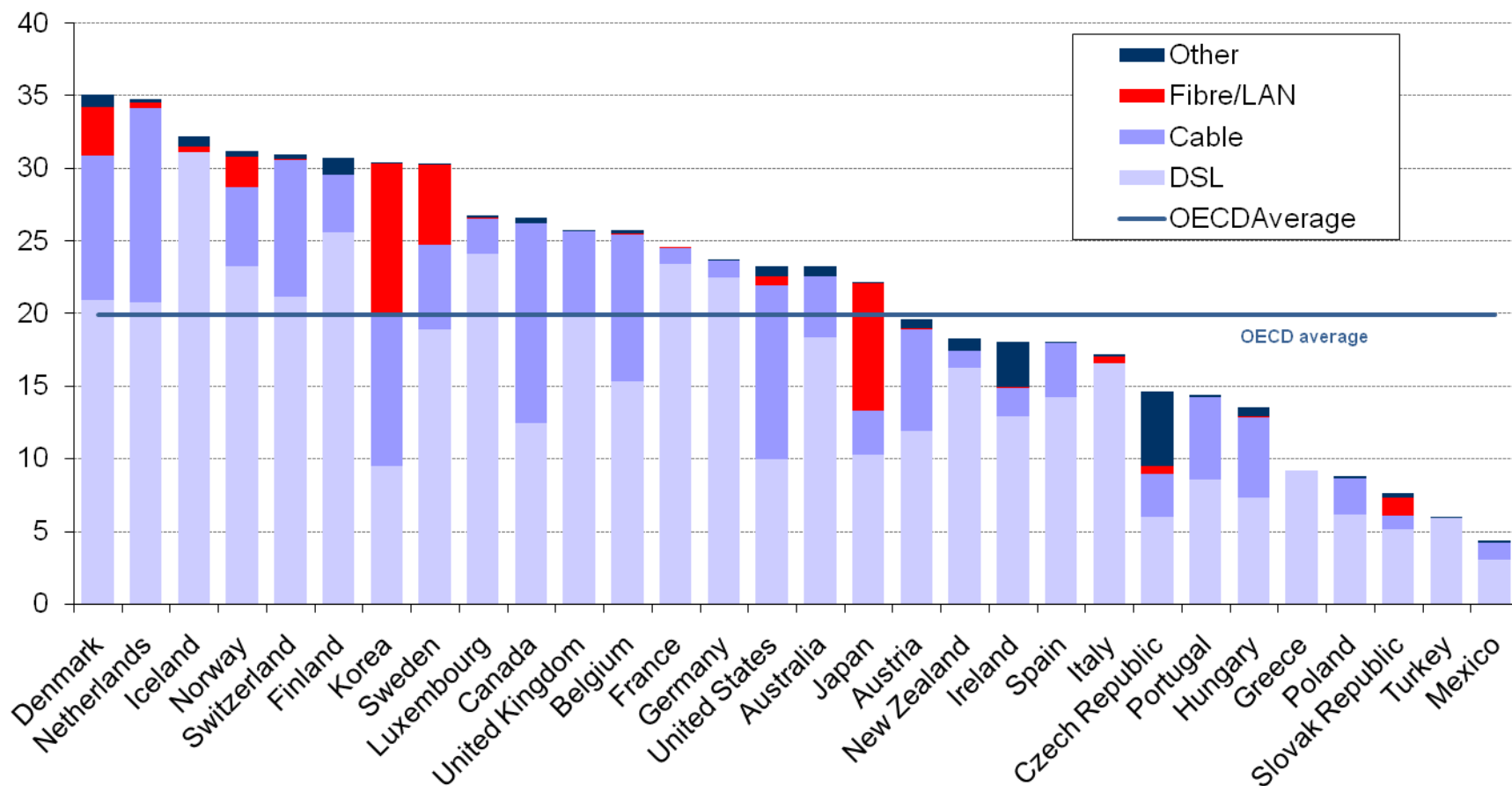
25 June 2008

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# Broadband penetration

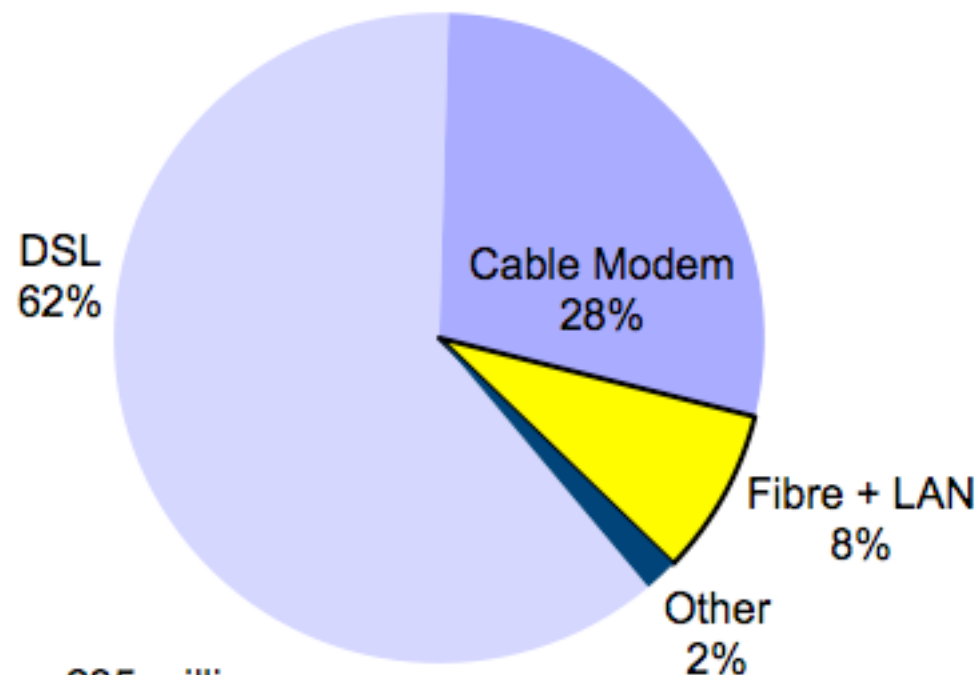
OECD Broadband subscribers per 100 inhabitants, by technology, December 2007



Source: OECD

# Fibre vs. other broadband technologies

**OECD Broadband subscriptions, by technology, December 2007**



Total subscribers: 235 million

Source : OECD

# Investment: The fibre premium details

- 36% increase in nominal revenues for fibre
  - 12 EUR/month per subscriber
    - EUR 2500: 24 year write-off ( $i = 5\%$ )
    - EUR 1000: 8.5 year write-off ( $i = 5\%$ )
    - Must find ways to reduce passive infra costs

(↑) Transit/backhaul costs likely up

(↓) OPEX falls

# Reducing costs

- Use existing passive infrastructure
- Decore copper cables
- Lay conduit whenever possible

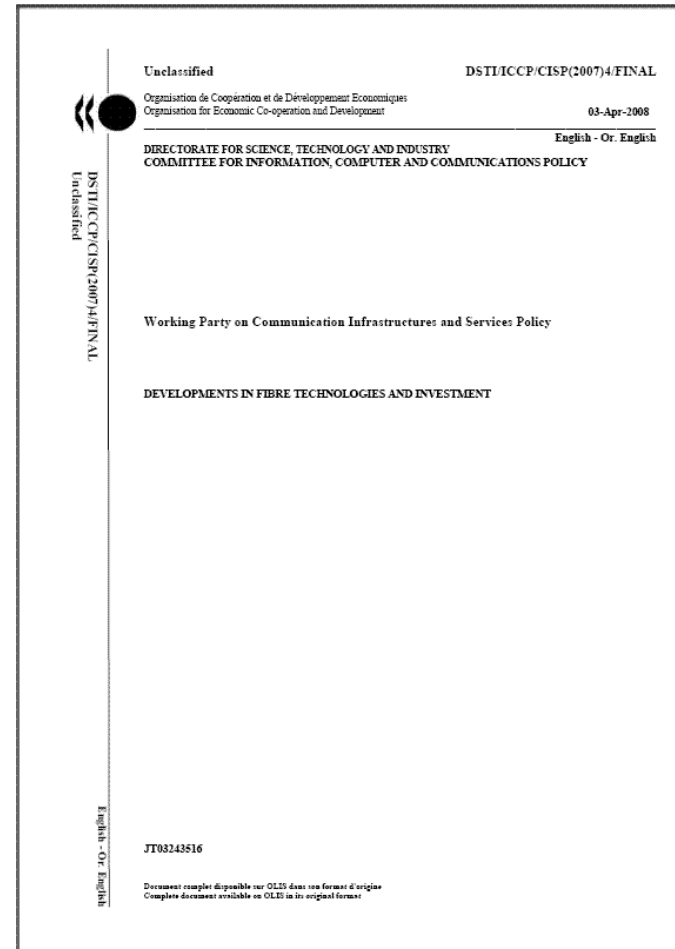




# Investment:

## Penetration → Success

- OECD research shows that investment decisions will be very closely tied to expected penetration rates
- Most markets will not be able to sustain more than one new FTTH or VDSL operator



[http://www.oilis.oecd.org/olis/2007doc.nsf/LinkTo/NT00005E06/\\$FILE/JT03243516.PDF](http://www.oilis.oecd.org/olis/2007doc.nsf/LinkTo/NT00005E06/$FILE/JT03243516.PDF)

# NL business case: High penetration needed

Penetration Rate	15%	25%	33%	50%	75%	100%	50% at 5% profit	50% at 7.5% profit
Triple Play	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22
Monthly charge Passive	67,80	40,68	30,82	20,34	13,56	10,17	15,02	17,66
Monthly charge Active	19,44	17,94	17,43	16,91	16,42	16,28	14,83	15,85
VAT 19%	20,76	15,32	13,35	11,26	9,88	9,21	9,85	10,55
Total	130,00	95,94	83,60	70,50	61,86	57,66	61,70	66,06

- NL cable triple play offers – June '08
  - 800 kbit/s: EUR 39.95
  - 8 000 kbit/s: EUR 49.95
  - 16 000 kbit/s: EUR 64.95



# Ultimate fibre goal

- Having one provider offering fibre-to-the-home Internet access is good
- But government policy needs to consider the ultimate goal:

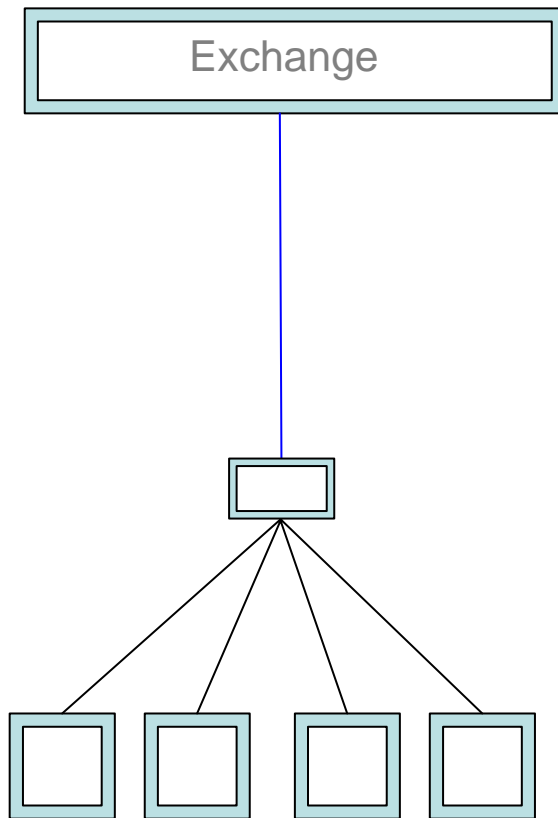
**Competitive fibre-to-the-home**



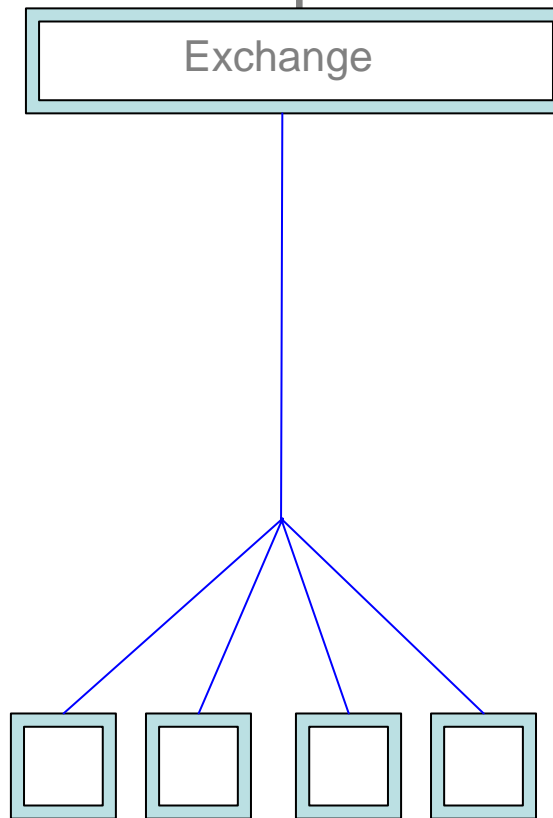


# Topology matters

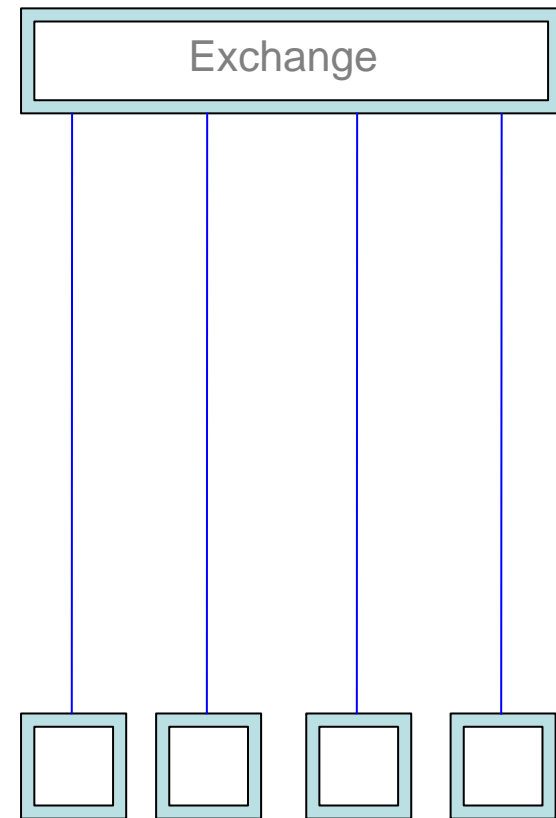
VDSL



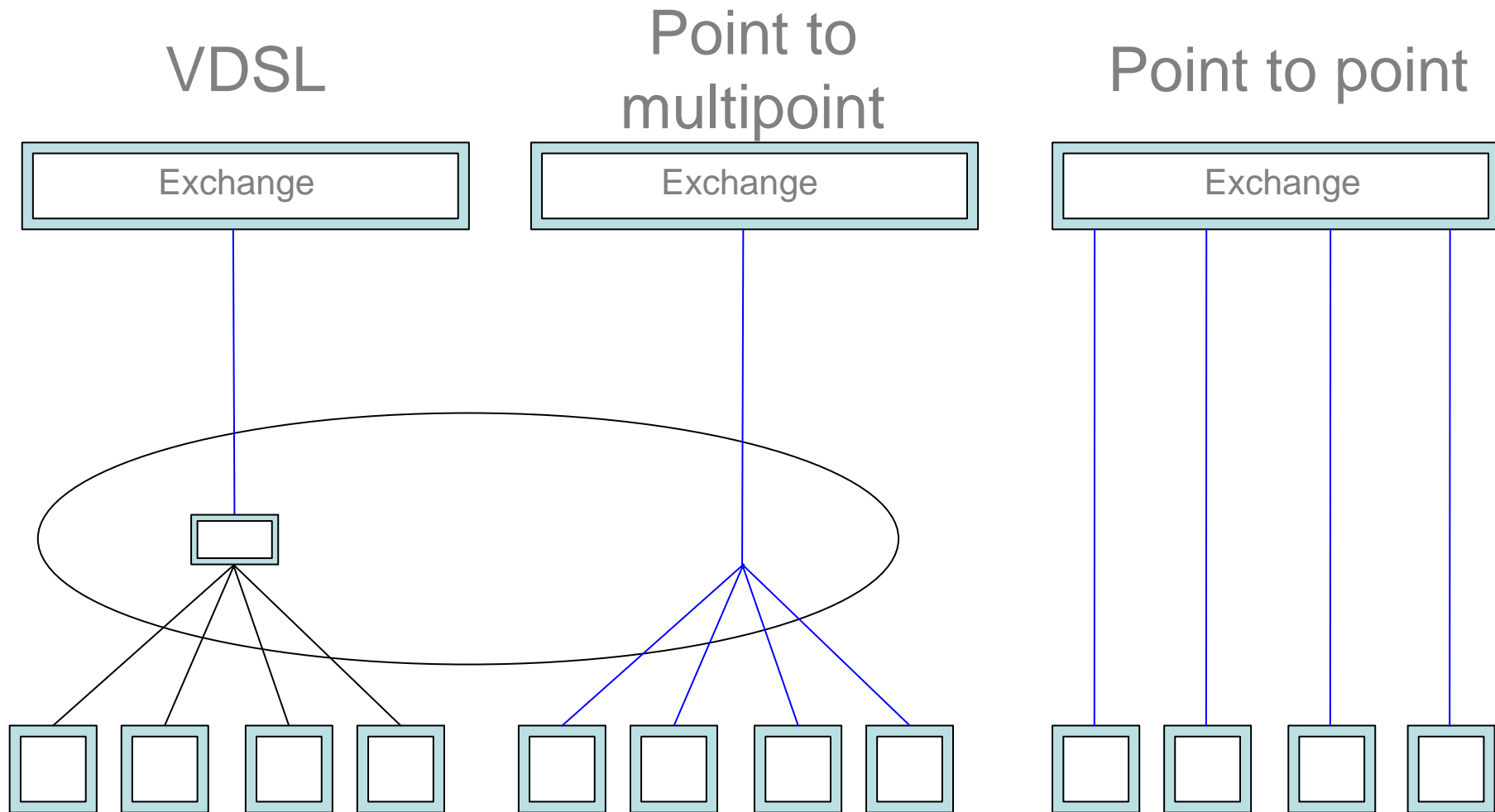
Point to multipoint



Point to point



# Problem areas for competition



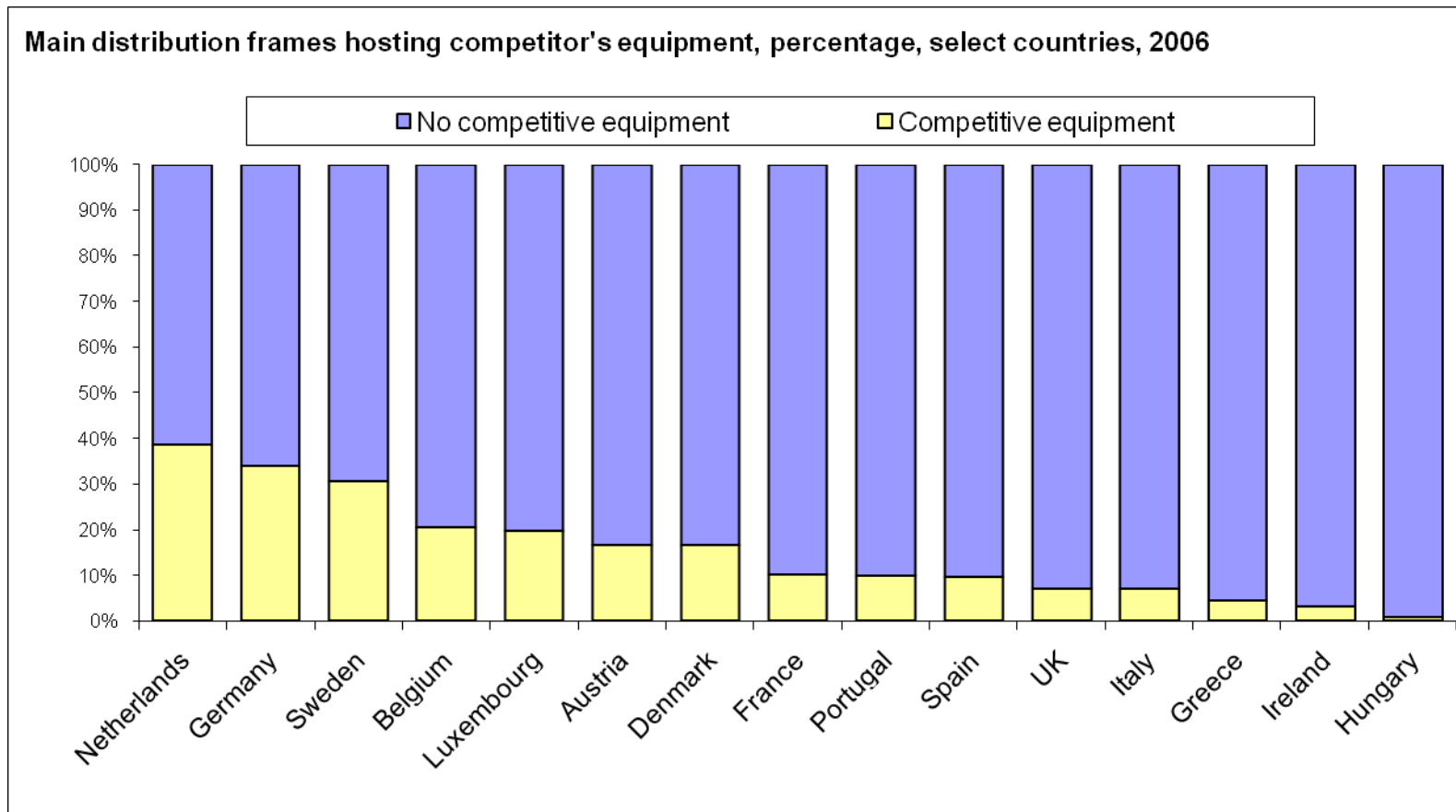
# VDSL issues



# Point to multipoint splice



# VDSL/P2MP: What to expect at the cabinet/splice

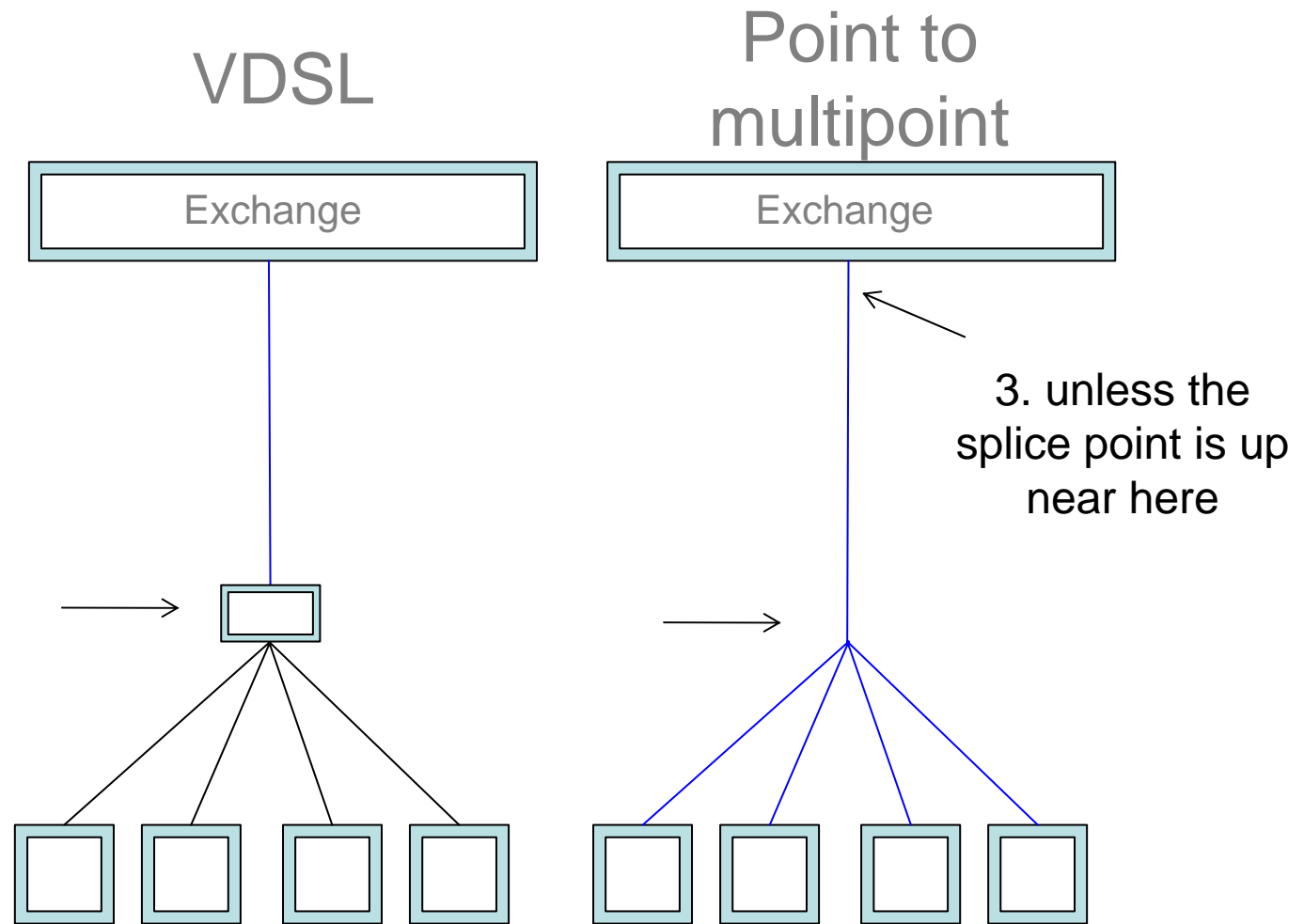


Source: ECTA

# Reality check

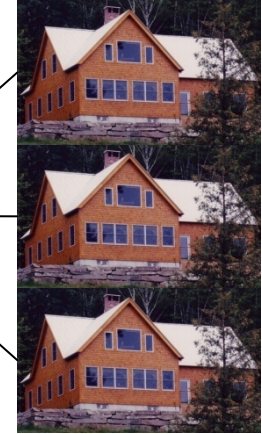
1. The exchange will likely remain the point for competitive access

2. Competitors can't economically reach and install here so they won't



# HFC (01)

## Location of the splice/split



Too few homes  
connected to expect  
competitive  
cabinets/colocation

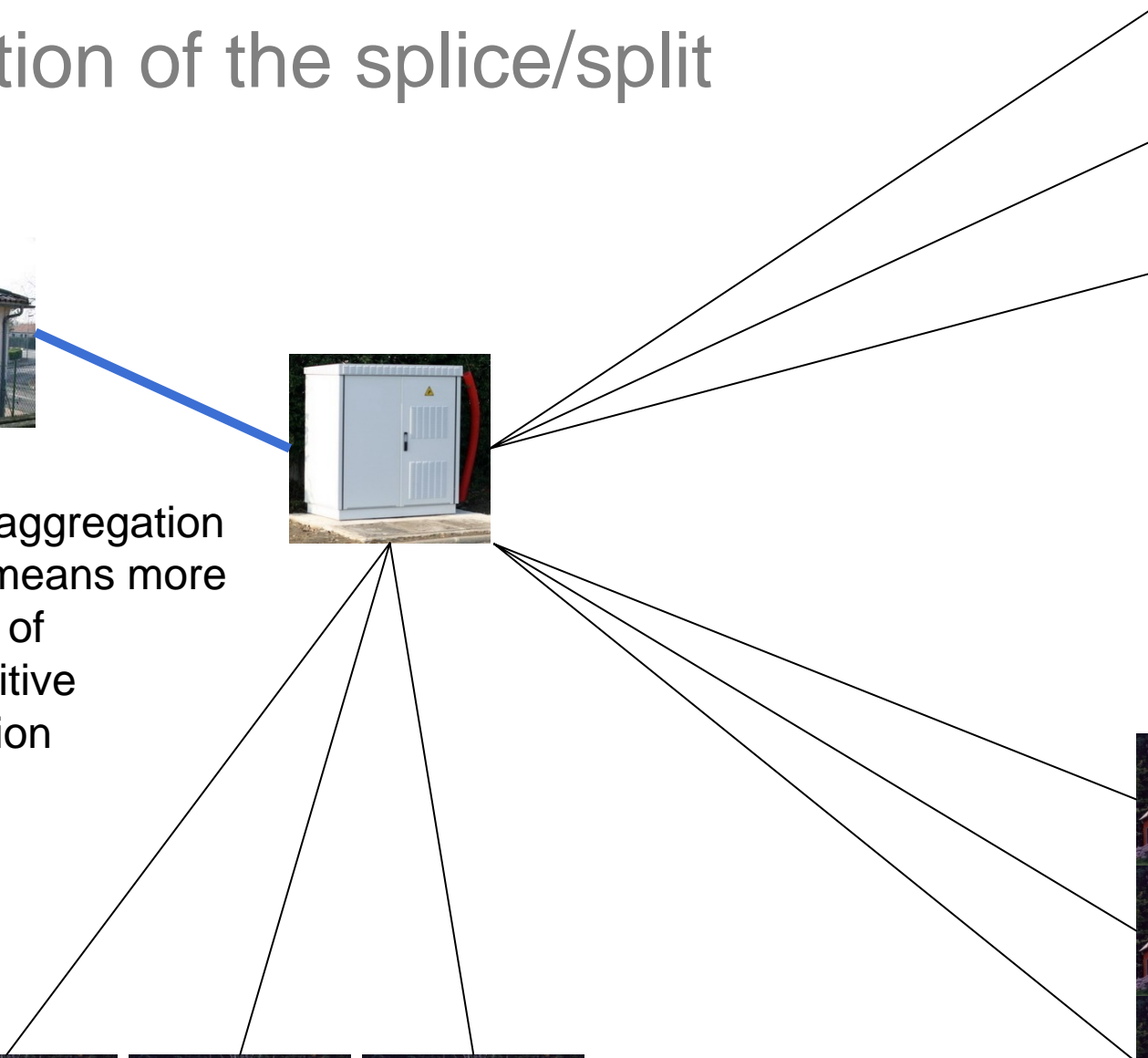
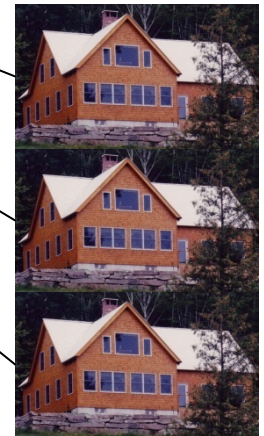


# HFC: 02

## Location of the splice/split



Larger aggregation points means more chance of competitive colocation





# FTTH

## Location of the splice/split



Upgrading copper to fibre from the street cabinet/aggregator



# Innovation thrives when competitors take over lines

Free (France) service offer		
	<b>No unbundling</b>	<b>Unbundling</b>
Download (Mbit/s)	10	28
Upload (Mbit/s)	1	1
Telephone	Free, 70 countries	Free, 70 countries
Television	-	200 channels
TV perso	-	Yes
Digital TV recorder	-	Yes
VoD	-	Yes
Radio	-	50 digital channels
Price	EUR 29.90 + fixed line	EUR 29.90

# Current debates: wholesale access



- Bell Canada traffic shapes peer-to-peer traffic using deep packet inspection
- Bell Canada also applies the same traffic shaping to the connections of its wholesale customers

# Network separation

- Many areas will have only one fibre entering each home.
- Structural or functional separation is an option to ensure competitive access to the fibre in a non-discriminatory way at cost-based prices
- Could be private- or public-sector led
- Does not solve unbundling problem with P2MP and HFC.
- Again, topology matters

# Government: Barriers to entry

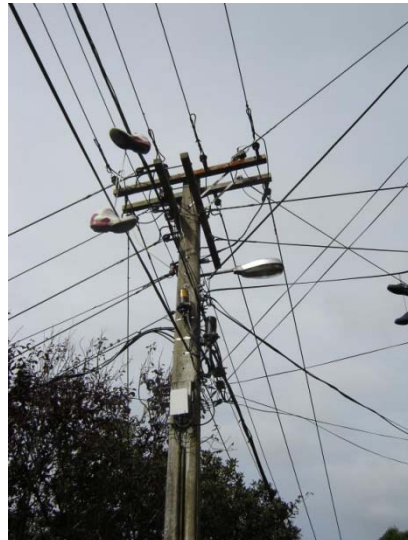
Ducts



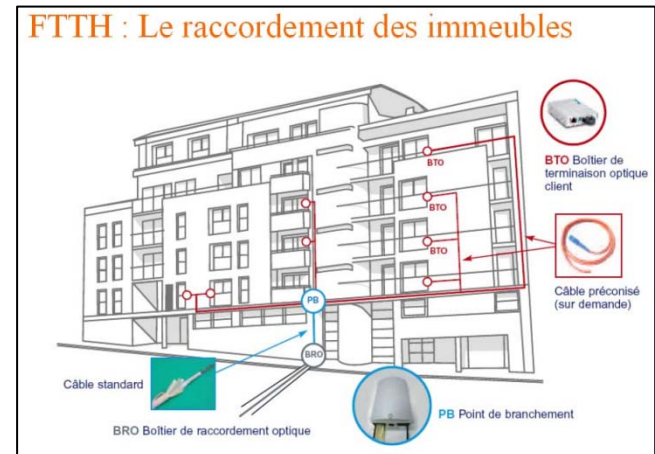
Rights of way



Poles



Internal wiring



# Conclusions / key findings

- For fibre rollouts, it is the **topology**, not technology which matters most
- The success of business models depends on **penetration rates** but many markets will be unable to support more than one new rollout
- Operators must find ways to reduce **passive infrastructure** costs
- Most OECD countries rely on unbundling but point-to-multipoint topologies (VDSL & PON) **complicate the competitive access** model and may limit innovation in the market
- Individual lines to subscribers should be **aggregated** as much as possible to allow for physical competitive access
- When governments intervene they must seek to **improve competition** and operate under open-access rules



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Thank you