

# THE CORNING OPTICAL OBSERVER

Carrier Newsletter for the Regions Europe, Middle East, and Africa

CORNING

Dear Reader,

With the industry demanding faster transmission speeds for applications such as cloud computing, the Internet of Things (IoT), and big data initiatives, carriers are faced with new challenges and more pressure to rapidly and efficiently roll out high-speed fibre networks. With this transition, though, comes exciting opportunities.

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## Industry Headlines

We've pulled together the biggest industry headlines for you:

- UK Government to invest £1 billion in 5G and faster fibre
- European FTTH deployment will cost €137bn

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## What We've Been Up To

We've been making headlines this quarter!

- Verizon and Corning agreement expected to quicken 5G deployment
- Corning makes an impact again at ANGA COM 2017

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## Solutions for Every Situation

### New space-saving closures simplify FTTH deployment

Corning introduces MOC, a highly protective closure for high-density fibre networks cabling, to save carriers space and time.

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## Opinion/Interview

### Convergence and 5G

Mobile data is crucial, leading to fixed mobile convergence. Fibre helps create new ways of deploying networks. Portugal Telecom shares this opinion.

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## Success Stories

### Corning & Openreach Claim Top Honours at GTB Awards

Award success for Corning and Openreach at the GTB Innovation Awards.

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## Intro/Overview Topic

Dear Reader,

With the industry demanding faster transmission speeds for applications such as cloud computing, the Internet of Things (IoT), and big data initiatives, carriers are faced with new challenges and more pressure to rapidly and efficiently roll out high-speed fibre networks. With this transition, though, comes exciting opportunities.

With this in mind, we're excited to welcome you to the Q2 edition of the EMEA Carrier Newsletter, which this quarter focuses on the converged network and the transition to 5G.

Read on to find out more about best cases, industry opinions, and the most interesting news you may have missed – we were making headlines this quarter!

And since we're striving to create the kind of newsletter you want to read, we'll be reaching out to you again soon with a short survey. We would greatly appreciate your time and input!

We hope you enjoy this edition and look forward to seeing you again next time.

Warm regards,

Your Corning Team

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## Industry Headlines

### UK: Government to invest £1 billion in 5G and faster fibre

In January this year, British Prime Minister Theresa May announced that the UK government would be investing up to £4.7 billion in its new [‘Modern Industrial Strategy’](#), pledging to develop new technologies across the country. Central to the strategy will be the development of digital industries such as broadband and 5G. The government pledged to invest £1 billion in both 5G and fibre broadband, with a whopping £740 million set aside for the development of 5G, and about £400 million for a “Digital Infrastructure Investment Fund” to help provide support for private networks to expand their fibre broadband offerings.

The UK’s Chancellor, Philip Hammond, said that he wants the UK to be a leader in 5G networks, and that meant “a full fibre network, a step change in speed, security and reliability.” Compared to the United States and other countries, the UK was one of the last to get a 4G LTE network, so hitting the ground running with 5G will be a big boost to the economy. The arrival of 5G has the potential to change the delivery of high-definition media as we know it. It will dramatically increase the capacity of current networks and improve response times to provide enough capacity for the billions of devices that will be connected via the Internet of Things (IoT), paving the way for a slew of innovative new technologies and services.

### Europe: European FTTH deployment will cost €137bn

The FTTH Council Europe – the industry organisation with a mission to accelerate the availability of fibre-based, ultra-high-speed access networks to consumers and businesses – has made public its [2017 study](#) on the cost of deploying FTTH throughout the EU. The results of the cost model indicate that €137 billion would be required to provide a complete overlay of the EU28 countries. This cost includes 100% homes passed and 50% connected (with 50% of the most remote, 5% passed and connected).

### Saudi Telecom agrees to provide high-speed fibre optic services to kingdom

In an [agreement](#) signed on May 7 with the government of Saudi Arabia, Saudi Telecom will provide an expected 1.3 million residences with a fibre optic connection. The project will cost an estimated \$1.95 billion USD or 7.3 billion riyals.

### Microsoft taps into Africa with giant data centres

Microsoft has recently announced plans to build [giant data centres](#) in the South African cities of Cape Town and Johannesburg by 2018. With this move, Microsoft hopes to be able to more efficiently deliver its Office 365 and cloud services, among others.

Growing economic development in Africa has spurred numerous investments in the region. In Uganda, for example, Facebook has already partnered with local telecom providers to install 500 miles of fibre optic cable in the country.

### France: Older buildings will have to be connected to an optical fibre network when renovated

Thanks to Macron’s new law, the deployment of optical fibre in France has received a small boost. Where deployment has been mandatory for all new buildings for almost a year, older buildings are now affected by this requirement. This will give an increased number of French people access to very high-speed optical fibre networks. The legislative decree concerning the deployment of optical fibre in older buildings was published in the Official Journal on May 7, 2017. It came into effect the following day, Monday, May 8, and makes the deployment of optical fibre networks with FTTH (fibre to the home) technology mandatory. All buildings are required to comply, whether intended for residential or for business purposes.

More information on broadband initiatives in France can be found on the [Telecommunications Regulatory Authority \(arcep\) website](#).

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## What We've Been Up To

### Verizon and Corning agreement expected to quicken 5G deployment

In April, Verizon [announced](#) a 3-year minimum purchase agreement with Corning Incorporated to provide fibre optic cable and associated hardware to enable critical coverage and capacity of their U.S.-based nationwide wireless broadband network. The agreement calls for Corning to sell up to 20 million kilometres of optical fibre to Verizon each year from 2018 through 2020, with a minimum purchase agreement of \$1.05 billion.

Verizon's reinvention of their network architecture is based around a next-generation fibre platform that will support all of the company's businesses. This new architecture is designed to improve 4G LTE coverage, deliver high-speed broadband to homes and businesses of all sizes, and speed the deployment of 5G. According to Verizon CEO Lowell McAdam, this fibre deal with Corning is "crucial to 5G."



### Making an impact again at ANGA COM 2017

Each year, [ANGA COM](#) provides a broadband-focused marketplace for network operators, vendors, and content providers from all over Europe. With an increasing number of visitors, ANGA COM has been Europe's leading business platform for broadband and content providers for more than 10 years. After a very positive experience in previous years, Corning decided to up its game at this year's show, held May 30 through June 1 in Cologne. Corning's newly redesigned booth, complete with a meeting areas, demo stations, and product stations, was a huge hit with both existing and potential customers.





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## Solutions for Every Situation

### A space-saver for a smooth FTTH deployment

Corning has introduced the new MOC, the first of the MOC Series, into its OptiSheath® sealed terminal product family. The IP68 rated solution features a flexible design that allows multiple configurations and offers high-density cable capacity. Not only that, but MOC has a new aesthetic design ideal for installation directly on building facades.

As the FTTH rollout in the EMEA region is laying the foundation for 5G and Internet of Things, space restrictions are ever increasing and micro cables are becoming in high demand. The smaller and more versatile MOC allows for space-saving micro cables and lets installers connect in less time, ultimately driving down the carrier's costs for an FTTH rollout.

But space isn't the only consideration in an FTTH network: optical fibers from a larger main cable must be separated and connected to smaller cables going to individual buildings or residences. To protect these delicate cable connections, closures like MOC are needed. This new closure fulfills the IP68 standard to protect the sensitive fibres from moisture and dust and provides easy access to quickly fasten the cables in the closure, connect the fibre ends as needed, and seal the openings in the protective closure where the cables are inserted. This closure can be mounted aerially, buried directly in the ground, or installed on a buildings facade.

The MOC: coming soon through Corning and distribution partners across Europe.

Check out all the specs on the [MOC product page](#)



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## Opinion/Interview

### Convergence and 5G

Mobile data is crucial, leading to fixed mobile convergence. Fibre helps create new ways of deploying networks.

Until recently, fixed and mobile networks were deployed independently to deliver higher-speed broadband services. The alternative is to unify the optical access and allow both networks to share resources in a so called, converged network.

This converged network was first introduced in 2004 as “a transition point that will finally remove the distinctions, providing a superior experience to customers to meet their needs.” The current deployment of 5G is the perfect illustration of convergence becoming a reality.

The European Commission identifies the 5G standards as one of the five priority areas under the Digitizing European Industry initiative. The challenge is not to answer the problems of today, but to address the uses of tomorrow.

According to Jorge Bonifácio- Head of Network Evolution Strategy from Portugal Telecom, “5G is much more than just a new mobile network. It means new architectures in a virtualized context, a convergent core agnostic to the type of access and a perfect coordination among fixed resources, as well as densification of new radio access points. In this context, fibre will be a key factor of success. We are currently focusing on a large deployment of fibre and creating a virtualized network environment that will enable handling future 5G requirements”.

The need for more fibre will re-shape the way we deploy networks. The future network seems to converge in a unified infrastructure capable of supporting any service from FTTH to cell sites.

From the convergence of applications and services at upper layers, to a share of the optical spectrum, the possibilities of network convergence are yet to be discovered.

Author: Vanessa Diaz, Market Development Manager, Corning Optical Communications

[Read how Portugal Telecom comments on 5G, convergence and on the concept of Fiber to Everywhere.](#)



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## Success Stories

### Corning & Openreach Claim Top Honours at GTB Awards

Corning and Openreach have jointly claimed this year's prestigious Infrastructure Innovation award at the [Global Telecoms Business](#) (GTB) Awards in London.

The award was given in recognition of the OptiTap® aerial hybrid drop solution project, which supports the deployment of superfast and ultrafast networks by providing field engineers with a solution that can be deployed safely, swiftly, and with minimum disruption to customers.

The solution brings together the advantages of a combined copper and fibre delivery, with the time-saving and cost-saving benefits of a pre-connectorised product offering to ease the handling of fibre, avoid the need to fusion splice in the field, and reduce the requirement for other special tools and equipment.

Alan Burkitt-Gray, Executive Editor of Global Telecoms Business and Capacity, said "To get through the first hurdle and be shortlisted is already a great tribute to the quality of work here, and to go on to win an award shows an excellent level of innovation in driving demand for better quality services."

The full list of winners is available [here](#).

To find out more about all of Corning's fibre-to-the-home solutions, visit our [FTTH homepage](#).





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