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Telecom Markets

Broadband Status Report

Broadband Status Report

Highlights

- The broadband industry showed signs of growth and tariffs fell during 2001 - the number of broadband subscribers in Europe rose by an average of almost 300% during the year. However, Europe is still lagging behind ...
- ... Asian markets are taking the lead with South Korea to the fore – at 16.29% of the population its broadband penetration is double that of the second market: Hong Kong with a penetration of 8.9%
- ... and the US has the largest broadband customer base, with 11.6 million subs, while Canada is the third most penetrated broadband market - at 8.85% it is just behind Hong Kong.
- Despite the telecoms industry's financial problems, broadband service development still features large in most incumbents' and cable operators' business plans.
- Progress has been slow in unbundling the local loop. Greenfield broadband projects are becoming rarer, while operators with pan-regional ambitions have been forced to scale back their targets.
- However, some competitive local exchange carriers have enjoyed a degree of success but their strength is usually linked to the extent of local loop unbundling.
- Incumbent carriers, through DSL; and cable companies, via cable modem, still account for the majority of broadband subscriptions.
- Distinct regional patterns are emerging for broadband development. DSL should extend its lead over cable in Europe and Asia while cable modem will remain the preferred US technology – unless the regulations change.

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