

## DSL UPDATE

DSL Forum's Board of Directors held its annual strategy meeting this spring and arrived at a focus of nine strategic goals that will accelerate the development of a true mass market for DSL products and services. Included in these goals are developing architecture recommendations for the "networked" home, as well as developing and rolling out a telecommuting stimulus program. New intelligent-building developers can be instrumental in making these goals a reality, by creating structures that are already wired and equipped to accommodate the broadband DSL user, in compliance with current cabling standards.

By pre-wiring new homes and offices for plug and play broadband usage, developers will do their part to encourage the development and promotion of advanced networking technologies. Typical wiring for broadband will include Category 5, which describes network cabling that consists of four twisted pairs of copper wire terminated by RJ45 connectors. Cat-5 cabling supports frequencies up to 100 MHz and speeds up to 1,000 Mbps. It can be wired into a structure when it is built and used for ATM, token ring, 1000Base-T, 100Base-T, and 10Base-T networking. Cat 5 is based on the EIA/TIA 568 Commercial Building Telecommunications Wiring Standard developed by the Electronics Industries Association as requested by the Computer Communications Industry Association in 1985. This is one example of home automation opportunities using state-of-the-art technology that can be instrumental in

the intelligent building industry. Stakeholder groups that have an interest in the technology and information on integrated systems and intelligent buildings may want to take note.

Many more potential broadband users could greatly benefit from the speed and convenience of DSL. Since a growing number of Internet users are telecommuters that say Internet access is as crucial to them as telephones, electricity or heat, the time is right for the United States Government to implement a DSL broadband-based telecommuting stimulus initiative. Such a program could considerably aid the economy and could potentially reverse the current tech-recession. A subsidizing initiative would provide the incentive for getting broadband connections into every American household, thus leading to improved commerce, education and entertainment opportunities for all of our citizens.

Clearly we are just at the beginning of broadband DSL deployment. In fact, the DSL industry has set its sights on a target penetration of 20 per cent of the world's loops by 2005.

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