

## **Optical Wireless for Broadband Access**

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The burgeoning demand for broadband access stimulated by the Internet and its evolution into multimedia services, particularly those with high quality video, has resulted in the development of various higher capacity access technologies. It is reasonable to envision a target where subscribers can benefit from the capacity of cable allied to the ubiquitous flexibility of the telecom and Internet worlds, where an HDTV station can be viewed on demand from around the globe.

The required transmission capacities can only be realistically provided using optical carriers. However, the cost of retrofitting cities with optical fibre access facilities is currently a barrier. For those subscribers who may have line-of sight possibilities to local access hubs, optical wireless will provide a cost-effective means of providing the capacity. The presentation will review the features and perceptions relating to this technology that is enjoying a resurgence.