

When Fibre is cost competitive to coaxial!

Télédistal is a small-sized Swiss cable operator based in the French part of Switzerland near Lausanne delivering cable television services to private households. When residents of small nearby housing communities asked for cable services, Télédistal had to extend its network to those communities. While HFC is the most commonly used network architecture to provide Broadcast TV, Télédistal opted for a new FTTH architecture. Teledistal is part of Cablecom GmbH.



The project

The existing layout of the network delivers broadcast television services from a primary hub location to curbside fibre nodes. From there, the project consisted in connecting the neighbourhood housing communities totaling 280 residents. About 120 are single family homes, the remaining 160 are mainly multi-dwelling units.

Challenge

Télédistal had several network requirements:

- Full transparency with delivering legacy CATV and DOCSIS-based services
- Optimising capital investment and minimising operating and maintenance costs.

Although tree/branch coaxial infrastructure is most commonly used, Télédistal looked at extending its network by means of a fibre infrastructure. Faced with the SUBONET[®], Télédistal realised that a coaxial-based solution was not the ideal way to optimise investment as well as minimise operating and maintenance costs, and that a coax-based approach would ultimately restrict future network upgradability.

Fibre - the best choice

While conducting a thorough evaluation in order to determine feasibility and costs of both solutions, Télédistal was looking for a FTTH architecture that could overcome the problems associated with current coax design. EMC's SUBONET[®] eliminates the need for active RF amplifiers and at the same time all the costs associated with deploying and servicing outside cabinets.

"The more we looked at SUBONET[®] the better it looked". Télédistal decided that EMC's fibre solution was the best infrastructure solution.



Fibre Node Hub

At the subscriber's home a termination device incorporating the fibre splicing module performs the signal conversion in both directions.

Results

While fibre was pulled through the ducts, EMC provided the active and passive equipment. Installation of the system as well as connection of the first households were made operational in March 2005. At the beginning of April 2005, the customer was equipped with CATV and internet services.



Conclusion

For Télédistal, what was attractive about EMC's SUBONET[®] architecture was the possibility to deliver classical TV and internet services at a competitive cost, minimising operating costs, and at the same time future proofing its network.

To find out more about EMC's

SUBONET[®] solutions contact us via

email at: sales@emc-web.com

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Solution

The SUBONET[®] architecture employs concepts familiar to HFC practitioners. The Fibre Node Hub feeds homes with broadcast TV while upstream signals are summed and transmitted back to the headend.

The fibre node fulfils much the same purpose as a fibre node in conventional HFC architecture except that the output is fibre and not coaxial.

