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## Free launches fibre-to-the-home (FTTH) roll-out

### ***Paris: 1<sup>st</sup> European capital with full optical fibre coverage***

Thanks to the efforts of the Free group's personnel since 1994, the French have enjoyed access to the entire suite of fixed telecommunication innovations:

- 1994: 1<sup>st</sup> ISP with Worldnet
- 1999: 1<sup>st</sup> no-charge ISP with Free
- 2002: 1<sup>st</sup> Box: the Freebox
- 2003: 1<sup>st</sup> VoIP mass market offering
- 2003: 1<sup>st</sup> TV over ADSL offering
- 2004: 1<sup>st</sup> ADSL 2+ offering
- 2006: 1<sup>st</sup> HD TV offering

Today, the group is announcing the roll-out of an FTTH local loop, which represents a major step forward in terms of both innovation and competitiveness.

In the geographical areas concerned, Free will provide each household with dedicated optical fibre links for its multimedia applications.

This network will offer consumers a higher standard of service (no cabling errors, identical bandwidth regardless of distance...), virtually unlimited symmetrical bandwidths and extensive multimedia applications: multi-device HD TV, self-produced video content, etc.

This optical fibre roll-out will allow the group to gain full independence from the traditional operator, while improving margins and further increasing market differentiation.

This optical fibre project is Free's contribution to achieving the public authorities' declared aim of positioning France at the leading edge of information technology.

Moreover, it is fully in line with the Paris city council's goal of fostering the development of very high speed Internet access in the French capital.

The "Paris – Digital City" project launched by the city's mayor has caught Free's attention which would like to thank all municipal departments concerned for their assistance.

The decision by the Paris Municipal Council on 10 July 2006 to authorise the deployment of several thousand kilometres of optical fibre cables under a public property occupation agreement, has enabled Free to sign up to the " Paris – Digital City" project.

*Free is a subsidiary of Iliad.*

*The Iliad Group is a major player in the Internet and telecommunications markets in France through its subsidiaries Free (the leading alternative broadband operator with 1,905,000 broadband subscribers as at 30/06/2006), OneTel and Iliad Telecom (fixed telephony operators) and Kertel (prepaid phone cards), as well as IFW (WiMax). The Iliad Group was established in 1991 and currently has more than 1,300 employees. The Iliad Group is listed on the Euronext Paris Eurolist under the mnemonic code ILLD.*