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Free's no-charge universal telecommunications service

Free fights the digital divide by introducing a no-charge universal service for all

In all apartment buildings equipped with fibre optic cables and as part of the fibre-to-the-home (FTTH) project announced by the group this morning, Free is offering free access to the information society to as many people as possible via the Free Foundation.

On receipt of a deposit, the Free Foundation will provide an optical terminal providing free access to:

- a telephone line without telephone subscription, emergency calls and calls to social services,
- low-speed internet access (e-mail + web access),
- antenna service with access to free TNT channels in digital quality.

This means that areas where Free has deployed its optical fibre network in France, (first Paris), will be able to enjoy free access to television in digital quality, low-speed Internet and a telephone line.

Households will no longer have to take out a telephone subscription and nor will apartment buildings have to pay for an antenna service.

With this no-charge offering, Free is taking a major step forward in developing the information society with the support of the Free Foundation.

The Free Foundation will be headed up by Jean Claude Michot who after starting out in research at Matracom went on to found and manage France Teaser from 1989 to 2000 before joining Firstream and then the web hosting company, Gandi. Xavier Niel has undertaken to finance the Foundation from his own funds.

Non-contractual document.

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 ILD.