

Paris, 4 December 2009

## **Valenciennes, a pioneer in Very High Speed internet access**

### ***Free unveils its FTTH (Fibre To The Home) network***

Free unveiled today its FTTH (Fibre To The Home) network in Valenciennes, France. With this network, Free will meet consumers' needs for Very High Speed internet access, by bringing a dedicated optic fibre for multi-medias uses to each Valenciennes household.

Free's Very High Speed comes at the same price as its High Speed package (€ 29.99 per month) and provides access to triple play services (*internet+phone+television*) with actual (unshared) downloading and uploading speeds of 100 Mbit/s and 50 Mbit/s, respectively.

The first Valenciennes subscribers, located in the city centre have had access to Free's FTTH offering since 1 December 2009. The first rollout phase, which will horizontally cover the Northern half of Valenciennes, will be completed in 2009. By end 2010, this network will cover the whole of inner Valenciennes, totalling close to 13,000 connectable sockets.

**With the unveiling of Free's FTTH network, Valenciennes thus becomes a pioneer city for very high speed networks in France.**

This network is the result of exemplary co-operation between the Valenciennes Métropole Urban Community and Free.

This co-operation was reflected in particular by the urban community providing access to a network of cable ducts, which enabled Free to roll out its fibres to subscribers rapidly and with limited recourse to civil engineering.

In accordance with future regulatory requirements, Free's FTTH network is open to all operators for pooling at fibre optic hub level. This pooling will guarantee healthy competition and avoid infrastructures being duplicated in the same areas.

### Details of Free's FTTH offer

With this new network, subscribers eligible for Free's FTTH offer will benefit, for **€ 29.99 per month**, of a package comprising:

- unlimited **Very High Speed** internet access, with a downloading speed of **100 Mbit/s** and an uploading speed of **50 Mbit/s**,
- access to the largest roaming Wifi community network, with 3 million hotspots,
- **phone services**, which include the phone line, its rental and unlimited calls to landlines in **100 destinations**, including Mainland France,
- **audiovisual services for 2 TV sets**, including:
  - Access to more than **160 channels**, video-on-demand services (VoD and S-VOD) and personal TV (TV Perso Freebox), as well as access to High Definition TV channels (TV HD),
  - A digital video recorder (HD box),
  - And many other services: video games, multi-station, media centre, radio...),
- free provision of:
  - a High Definition compatible **Optic Freebox** that gives a TV set access to audiovisual services, integrating router and Wifi functions and is equipped with 4 Ethernet ports (up to 4 computers connected by Ethernet cable + those connected by Wifi),
  - a High Definition compatible **Freebox HD**, connected to the Optic Freebox by Ethernet, Wifi or PLC (power line communication), giving a second TV set access to audiovisual services and including a digital video recorder.

Free's ADSL subscribers will benefit from automatic migration at no extra charge to the Very High Speed package.

An information campaign will be rolled out to the Valenciennes people as soon as fibre optic will become available to their household.

Please visit <http://ftth.free.fr> for more information.

*Offer subject to eligibility and to terms and conditions available from <http://www.free.fr/fibre-optique/index.html>*

*Free is an Iliad subsidiary. The Iliad Group is a major player in the French telecommunications and Internet access market via Free and Alice (4,420,000 ADSL subscribers as of 30 September 2009), Onetel and Iliad Télécom (fixed telephony providers) and IFW (Wimax). The Iliad Group is listed on Euronext Paris under the ticker ILLD.*