



PRESS RELEASE

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Fiber: Free goes into partnership with Vendée Numérique

An agreement in line with Free's aim of having fiber coverage across the whole of France

As part of France's national ultra-fast broadband rollout program, Vendée Numérique (a Public Interest Group) is deploying a fiber network across an area of the Vendée region covering 80% of the region's homes and businesses – an essential move for the region's economic development.

This ambitious project – which is being implemented from 2017 through 2020 and will cost over €100 million – is being financed at both regional and national level, as well as by the European Union. It provides for the connection of 70,000 fiber sockets by 2020.

Free and Vendée Numérique today signed an agreement enabling Free to propose its fiber offerings on the Public Initiative Network (PIN) operated by Vendée Numérique. Thanks to this agreement, during the first quarter of 2019, Free will be able to propose its ultra-fast offering in the towns of Challans, Montaigu, Les Herbiers, Mortagne sur Sèvre and Fontenay le Comte, and then, as the rollout of the Vendée Numérique fiber network progresses throughout 2019, its offering will be available in Luçon, Aizenay, le Poiré sur Vie, Pouzauges, Saint Gilles Croix de Vie, Saint Hilaire de Riez, Saint Jean de Monts and Chantonay.

Vendée Numérique's FTTH network is open to all telecommunications operators. It is one of the first in France – and the first in the Grand Ouest region – to have a multi-operator offering (as two operators are present on Vendée Numérique's network).

The agreement with Vendée Numérique completes Free's fiber coverage of the Vendée region as Free also has fiber offerings on networks other than the Public Initiative Network, notably in the townships of La Roche sur Yon and Sables d'Olonne.

The partnership is in line with Free's aim of making its fiber offerings available throughout France, and particularly in rural areas. It also illustrates how Free is stepping up its FTTH rollouts so its subscribers can have high-quality ultra-fast connections (up to 1Gbit/s download and up to 200Mbit/s upload).

At June 30, 2018 Free had over 8 million connectible fiber sockets and 734,000 fiber subscribers.

For Vendée Numérique, this large-scale project paves the way for a new era, with its operator partners proposing new-generation digital services (ultra-high-definition videos, downloading and sending large professional files, use of the cloud, videoconferencing, etc.).

After 12 months of works, a gigantic project is therefore now underway aimed at creating the ultra-fast network of tomorrow that will enable all of the Vendée region's inhabitants to be connected up to fiber by 2025.

About Vendée Numérique

Vendée Numérique is a Public Interest Group made up of the Vendée regional authorities and the SyDEV (Syndicat Départemental d'Énergie et d'Équipement de la Vendée). It is in charge of the region's digital development in line with the digital development roadmap adopted by the regional authorities in 2011 and updated in 2017. After carrying out initial work from 2014 through 2017 to increase Internet speeds, Vendée Numérique has now begun the "construction project of the century" in order to roll out a fiber network (FTTH/FTTE) aimed at covering the whole of the Vendée region by 2025.

About Free

Free – an Iliad Group subsidiary – is the inventor of the Freebox, the first multiservice box on ADSL. Free is behind numerous innovations in the Broadband and Ultra-Fast Broadband access segment (VoIP, IPTV, flat-rate calling plans to multiple destinations, etc.). For example, the Freebox Revolution, the 6th generation of Freebox units, includes an NAS and a Blu-Ray™ drive, and the Freebox mini 4K was the first Android TV™ and 4K box on the French market. Free was the first operator to include calls from landlines to mobile phones in its offerings and also calls to French overseas departments (DOM). Since January 2012, Free has brought mobile phone usage within everyone's reach with straightforward, no-commitment offerings at very attractive prices. The Free Mobile Plan includes all-year-round roaming communications from more than 35 countries: unlimited calls, texts and MMS from Europe, the French overseas departments, the United States, Canada, South Africa, Australia, New Zealand and Israel (to these same countries) and 25GB/month of 3G data roaming from all these countries + Mexico, Switzerland, Turkey, Algeria, Thailand, Russia, Brazil, Jersey, Guernsey, Isle of Man, Ukraine, India and Malaysia. Free also includes unlimited 4G in Metropolitan France in its €15.99/month Mobile Plan for Freebox subscribers. As of June 30, 2018, Free had over 20 million subscribers (6.5 million Broadband and Ultra-Fast Broadband subscribers and 13.6 million mobile subscribers).

Free Fiber: requires a compatible offering/Freebox and subject to eligibility and a fiber connection. See free.fr for full terms and conditions.

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