Free celebrates 20 years of fiber rollouts and reaches the milestone of 40 million fiber-passed homes

2006-2026: Free is celebrating its 20th year of rolling out fiber across the whole of France, and has reached the milestone number of 40 million homes able to connect to Free Fiber. We now cover over 90% of the French population and have therefore firmly established ourselves as one of France's front-ranking tech leaders.

From pioneer to leader: Free's 20 years of fiber

We were firmly convinced of the technological potential of fiber very early on and decided to invest massively in rolling it out on a large scale back in 2006. Altogether, we've already invested over €10 billion in our fiber infrastructure[1].

Our teams have always deployed the most advanced technologies, enabling us to provide some of the fastest speeds in the market throughout France. We're currently the only telco in France to offer maximum theoretical symmetrical speeds of up to 8 Gbps[2] for our entire fiber footprint, i.e., 40 million eligible homes.

Also, in line with our unwavering objective of bringing the most advanced technologies within everyone's reach, we actively encourage our subscribers to take up fiber. One way we do this is through our sales strategy, by systematically offering Free Fiber before other plans in areas where it is available. And another way is via our strategy of continuous innovation, by launching Freeboxes with state-of-the-art fiber connectivity, such as our latest-generation Freebox Ultra.

Thanks to these efforts, Free is now France's No. 1 telco in terms of subscriber-base fiber penetration[3], with over 86% of its Broadband subscribers connected to fiber[4].

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[1] In-house estimate.

[2] iliad Group estimates based on figures issued by France's telcos. With the SFP+ module and compatible devices.

[3] iliad Group estimates based on figures issued by France's telcos and by Arcep.

[4] At end-September 2025, Free had 6.5 million Fiber subscribers out of a total 7.6 million Broadband subscribers.

The quality of service Free offers to its subscribers was recognized by Arcep[5] in its annual customer satisfaction survey[6] published on April 3, 2025, which ranked Free at No. 1 for overall satisfaction for Broadband and Mobile services.

The copper switch-off: a transition we've carefully planned for

France started to shut down its copper cable lines on a municipality by municipality basis in 2025, and by 2030 the country's copper network will be switched off completely. We've planned well ahead for this at Free, with our 40 million fiber-passed homes.

To help the 14% of our Broadband customers that are still on the copper network, we're offering them:

- step-by-step support to easily and smoothly switch to fiber, with no service interruption;
- fiber connection at no extra cost, with no fees for delivery, migration or installation;
- Freeboxes that are already fiber-compatible (except for the Freebox Crystal)[7].

Through all of these actions, we're continuing to pursue our goal of accelerating digital transformation by making ultra-fast fiber available to everyone throughout the whole of France.

About Free

www.free.fr

Free – the inventor of the world's first triple-play box – is an Ultra-Fast Broadband and Mobile operator in France, standing out for its innovative, straightforward and attractive offerings. At end-September 2025, it had 23.2 million retail subscribers (15.7 million Mobile subscribers and 7.6 million Broadband subscribers). Free is a subsidiary of the iliad Group, which was created in France in the early 1990s and also operates in Italy under the iliad brand and in Poland under the Play brand. In March 2021, the iliad Group launched its BtoB business in France under the Free Pro brand.

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[5] Autorité de régulation des communications électroniques, des postes et de la distribution de la presse (France's electronic communications, postal and print media distribution regulatory authority).

[6] 2025 customer satisfaction survey (Observatoire de la satisfaction client) published by Arcep on April 3, 2025. Survey carried out by CSA between September 23, 2024 and October 11, 2024 across a representative sample of 4,006 consumers with Internet access in their home or a personal mobile phone + an additional sample of 1,000 ISP customers who had used their ISP's customer service. For more details, see the full survey (in French only) at arcep.fr.

[7] Subject to eligibility.