



## **About Alcatel-Lucent**

We are a recognised leader in fixed, mobile and converged broadband networking, IP technologies, applications and services, leveraging the technical and scientific expertise of Bell Labs, one of the largest innovation centres in the communications industry.

With over 80 wireline Next Generation Access (NGA) commercial projects throughout the world spanning GPON, Point-to-Point Fibre and Fibre/VDSL solutions, plus further activity in wireless NGA networks, we have an unrivalled expertise in the deployment and understanding of different commercial and technical solutions.

## **The importance of Super-Fast Broadband to the UK**

Continued on-going investment in new access technologies and the development of super-fast broadband is essential for the future success of the UK economy. Britain and many other advanced economies face an urgent need to reshape their economies and societies to meet the challenges of the 21st Century, in order to be in a strong position to develop a more knowledge driven economy and support new industries, such as the creative industries where Britain remains strong.

There is already strong broadband market in the UK which is recognised as a success, but it is in real danger of been left behind. Although the global roll-out of next generation access is very much in its infancy, it is a fundamental and step change in technology requiring significant investment, taking time to plan and implement. The US and some other countries are much further along the journey towards wide-scale fibre roll-out, with deployments in the US by major operators such as Verizon, AT&T and the cable industry.

At the heart of the current broadband success was a robust regulatory framework tailored to the specific conditions of the UK market that has successfully encouraged both investment and competition.

## **Delivering Super-fast Broadband**

We welcome Ofcom's further consultation on the delivery of super-fast broadband. Many of the views outlined in our earlier response remain valid and we are pleased that your latest consultation reinforces and supports our thinking in respect to technology neutrality and promoting competition at the deepest most effective level.

We agree that it is key to stimulate investment that regulatory risk is minimised, through a regulatory framework that provides for both transparency in regulatory decisions, which can be made in a timely manner and can be future proof in allowing the market to develop different approaches over the longer term.

In this respect, we welcome the approach to consider:

- the pragmatic use of both active and passive wholesale products in a way that best fits different geographic markets.
- initially allowing network operators the freedom to set the price of active products.

Whilst the private sector will play the major role in the delivery of super-fast broadband, the public sector does need to play an active role now in the focus of near term attention on those geographic areas that can already be identified as remaining under-served in the future, facilitating market-led investment at community level and most importantly creating the vision and roadmap as a number of other countries in Europe have already done e.g. France, Portugal. In this respect we welcome the launch of the 'Digital Britain' initiative, because we feel it is important for there to be clear benchmarking with other countries and targets.

Finally in a market environment that is set to encourage competition and investment in all layers of the broadband value chain; infrastructure, services and applications – standardisation (both technical and commercial) will be key to the success of next generation networks and innovation.. Whilst Alcatel-Lucent will continue to work with all stakeholders both within the UK and internationally on relevant standards, we believe that Ofcom should take a leadership role in ensuring UK alignment to relevant European and International standards.

### **Contact**

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