

Satellite broadband

Satellite broadband is available to provide fast internet connectivity throughout every EU country.



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The European Satellite Operators Association (ESOA) with the support of the European Commission has created an online tool that helps citizens to find a local distributor who can supply them with immediate connectivity no matter where they live.

Satellite Broadband, also referred to as internet-by-satellite, is a high-speed bi-directional Internet connection made via geostationary communications satellites instead of a telephone landline or other terrestrial means. Today satellite broadband is completely comparable with DSL broadband in terms of both performance and cost, with commercial offerings of 22 Mbps often with triple play (internet, TV and voice with the same internet). Check the section Wireless broadband technologies for more details on technologies as well as pros & cons.

While fibre offers superior performance, it takes more time and is more expensive to roll out and so will not be available to all users within a reasonable time frame. On the contrary, satellite solutions are available immediately. This is the only broadband solution for those who live in areas without or with slow terrestrial or wireless / mobile broadband access.

Affordable and easy to install

Satellite broadband is extremely cost effective, with monthly subscriptions comparable with

equivalent performance ADSL offers. Users receive a dish and modem and can either install these themselves, or call on the expertise of a vast network of highly trained engineers. The average purchase price across the EU for consumer equipment is €350. This initial cost is eligible for European public funding, and some Member States and regions have used this opportunity to close their digital divides cost-effectively and quickly.

About the technology

Connecting to the Internet via satellite means installing a small satellite dish outside your house, flat, school or other building. As long as the dish can see the sky, you should easily be able to connect to the Internet. The satellite modem needs to be plugged into your computer and no telephone connection is required. The dish can be installed by homeowners directly or by a professional installer. The quality of service is comparable to DSL and users can access a full range of Internet applications such as surfing the web, emailing, VOIP, downloading music or watching videos.

European funding for satellite broadband access

The European Union's aim is to maximise broadband connectivity for all citizens regardless of their location in the EU. Satellite broadband is often the only broadband solution for those who live in areas with no or very poor connectivity. A Voucher Scheme has been successfully implemented in some Member States to connect remote communities using satellite broadband. Under such a scheme, a public authority provides financial aid (a voucher) to eligible end users with which they can 'pay' a registered service provider of their choice for the purchase, installation and activation of satellite user equipment. The service provider seeks reimbursement of his costs from the public authority implementing the scheme.

Satellite technology projects in Europe

The SABER project (finalised) brought together regional authorities and stakeholders in order to tackle the Digital Divide in EU-27 and to ensure broadband coverage for all. The initiative established the conditions for the efficient and effective contribution of satellite systems to support the achievement of the objectives set in the Digital Agenda for Europe (DAE).

The BRESAT project (finalised) provided information on the broadband coverage by region, case studies of satellite broadband deployments, key criteria and best practices for successful deployments, potential sources of funding, cost-benefit analysis, guidelines for business case development as well as hosting workshops and dissemination events across Europe.

Latest

DIGIBYTE | 04 May 2016

Commission publishes results of two public consultations under Digital Single Market Strategy

The Commission has just published two reports as part of its preparatory work to create a Digital Single Market.

PRESS RELEASE | 10 July 2014

Frequently asked questions: "Connected Communities"

Background memo with FAQs on "Connected Communities";

PRESS RELEASE | 10 July 2014

Call for local, regional and national leaders to take advantage of new EU broadband funding and support

The European Commission has just launched its "Connected Communities" initiative - an umbrella for several systems designed to connect towns, cities, local broadband partnerships and operators to the advice they need to access finance and develop tailored business models for bringing fast broadband to their community.

PRESS RELEASE | 17 October 2013

100% basic broadband coverage achieved across Europe - EU target achieved ahead of schedule. Next stop is fast broadband for all.

Every EU household can now have a basic broadband connection, thanks to pan-EU availability of satellite broadband. Satellite connections are now available in all 28 countries meaning every European can take out a satellite subscription, including the three million people not already covered by fixed and mobile broadband networks.

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Related Content

Big Picture

Connectivity

The EU's goal is for Europe to be the most connected continent by 2030.

See Also

Open Internet

EU rules enshrine the principle of open Internet access: internet traffic shall be treated without discrimination, blocking, throttling or prioritisation.

Body of European Regulators for Electronic Communications

The Body of European Regulators for Electronic Communications (BEREC) improves consistency of EU telecoms rules.

ICT and standardisation

ICT specifications ensure that products can connect and interoperate with each other, boosting innovation, and keeping ICT markets open and competitive.

Electronic communications laws

The EU's electronic communications policy improves competition, drives innovation, and boosts consumer rights within the European single market.

The Connectivity Toolbox

The connectivity toolbox offers guidance for the deployment of fibre and 5G networks. These networks will offer significant economic opportunities.

Radio spectrum: the basis of wireless communications

Wireless communications, via public or private networks, use radio spectrum, i.e. a range of radio waves, to carry information. Such communication can be between people, people and machines or systems ("things" more general) or between things. In this context, radio spectrum is...

5G

5G is the critical new generation network technology that will enable innovation and support the digital transformation.

112: EU Emergency number

Need help? 112 is your life-saving number! 112 is the European emergency phone number, available everywhere in the EU, free of charge.

Roaming: connected anywhere in the EU at no extra charge

Europeans can call, message and use mobile data anywhere in the EU without extra costs thanks to the 'Roam like at home' policy.

Intra-EU calls: lower and limited charges for calling other EU countries

Europeans pay lower and limited charges for, Intra-EU calls, or calling other EU countries.

Connected and automated mobility

Connected and Automated Mobility provides a unique opportunity to make our transport systems safer, cleaner, more efficient and more user-friendly.

Support for Broadband rollout

The European Commission is supporting EU businesses, project managers and authorities in increasing network coverage to reach the EU's Gigabit Society goals.

Source URL: <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/policies/satellite-broadband>