

Broadband in the Czech Republic, Strategy and Development

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Czech situation

- Relatively big interest of citizens – business and residential located on the whole territory of the state about internet services [content].
- Initially dial-up access was used only.
- After 2000 starts the broadband access, provided in all localities [towns & villages] by small local entrepreneurs and non profit local associations by means of wireless technology [WiFi etc.] although in the Czech Republic there are well penetrated and new local access [cooper] networks operated by the incumbent.

Czech situation [2]

- **Consequently at the beginning the broadband access has been introduced by different way compared with Europe – mostly by wireless outdoor devices – for shorter distances.**
- **At the end of 2003 there were about 200,000 subscribers connected via wireless access lines.**
- **For the broadband connectivity were [and are] used optical fiber lines, leased lines, FWA lines [10, 26, 28 GHz etc.]**
- **Backbone networks are well developed segment.**

Czech situation [3]

- From 2004 starts more rapid installation of xDSL technology – similar as in other EU countries,
- Access to broadband is supplied not only by incumbent but also by competitors using LLU, FWA, CATV, satellite, FTTx etc.
- At the end of III.Q 2006 the technological proportion was: 40.3% DSL, 38.1% FWA, 19% CATV etc.
- The overall increase of active broadband access lines between 2006 and 2005 is about +78 %.
- The penetration of broadband fix access at the end III.Q of 2006 is cca 10.7 active lines/100 inh₄

Czech situation [4]

- The most dynamic technological segment is now the access by DSL but the operators using FWA technology effectively compete in many regions and rural localities with DSL.
- FWA/WiFi/WiMax technology is installed in cca 47% of Czech municipalities.
- The internet access have 27% of households [both – dial/up and broadband], broadband access – cca 15% [source: Czech statistical office].

Czech situation [5]

- **Prices for broadband access slowly but permanently decrease – they are still the main obstacle for citizens in their demand of broadband connection**
- **The offered capacity [kbit/s] is increasing and several operators offer also 10 Mbit/sec.**
- **IPTV is offered by incumbent and several new entrants are preparing to offer it also.**
- **There is the effort to offer broadband access via the spectrum used for mobile services [NMT]**

The National Broadband Access Policy [broadband strategy]

- **Prepared during 2004, accepted by the government in January 2005.**
- **On the basis of advantages of broadband access it defines the goals for the development in 2005 and specifies the long term outlook.**
- **This Strategy includes the overview of possibilities for the financing of the construction of new and modernization of existing networks.**
- **The majority of the costs will come of course from the private sector but it was considered to use EU funds and state support in special cases.**

Broadband Strategy [2]

- **The Strategy required the financial support not only for the networks but also for the content services.**
- **The part of available [future] funds was oriented for the construction of broadband access in less developed regions and localities.**
- **For the provision of the better starting conditions of broadband was nominated the “broadband forum” of experts which was an advisory body to the Ministry of Informatics.**

Broadband Strategy [3]

- **The Strategy also contains some characteristics of various kinds of technologies which can be used for the construction of access infrastructure and brings the overview of conditions which must be fulfilled when the relevant responsible bodies will decide about broadband access in concrete locality.**
- **The comparisons of actual and perspective technologies enabling broadband access are part of the Strategy.**

Conclusion

- **The Czech Broadband Strategy was drafted in line with EU orientation on competitive and dynamic knowledge based economy.**
- **It was one of the milestones which help to accelerate successfully the access to broadband and internet to many of Czech citizens.**

Thank you for your attention.