

telecomredux

Meeting the broadband challenge

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Industry expert says 'act now' as demand for capacity set for a dramatic increase

Within the next two years demand for broadband will explode with every household requiring at least 100Mbps. Carriers will need to find new network solutions if they are to handle this huge increase in traffic in a cost effective manner.

According to Bernd Schumacher, head of IP transport at Nokia Siemens Networks, by 2015 more than 5 billion people will be connected to fixed or mobile broadband networks. "There will be broadband everywhere", says Schumacher; "there will be a 100-fold increase in network traffic, reaching hundreds of thousands of petabytes a month."

In this new world, carriers will face significant technical and commercial challenges. Competition will be intense and market differentiation will be essential if operators are to succeed. "It is all about driving the cost down", comments Schumacher; "reliability and cost will be the key elements of differentiation." The challenge for the industry will be to develop technologies that enable the rapid provisioning of highly reliable and secure services.

Schumacher believes that in the new world of ubiquitous broadband access Carrier Ethernet Transport (CET) and photonics will play a fundamental role. "Handling 100-fold increase in traffic in a cost effective way requires a flat, all-optical network that is simple to operate and maintain. The time to evolve the network is *now*. CET is a critical technology that enables profitable, next-generation networks."

Ian Channing