

Installing the fibre optic network in the départements of the Drôme and the Ardèche

Ultra-high speed network
investment 123 M€
184 M\$



**The largest operation to provide broadband in France,
100% (>950 000) of the population will be covered!**

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"We are taking a gamble on the future by launching this project with a programme unique in France," declared Didier Guillaume, president of the General Council of the Drôme on 11 June, in the presence of Jean-Jack Queyranne, president of the Rhône-Alpes region, on the occasion of the first link-up of the network **ADN (Ardèche Drôme Numérique)** for high speed and ultra high speed broadband connection.

The president of the General Council of the Ardèche, Pascal Terrasse, emphasised: "The communities in our region cannot leave the matter of providing adequate broadband connection in the hands only of the phone operating companies, nor can they rely on market forces. If we don't take any initiative then all the latest technology would be concentrated in densely populated places and the more remote areas would be left with fewer facilities and a poorer service."



Didier Guillaume, Senator of the Drôme department

The ADN organisation, which is a public body created jointly by the local and regional councils, is carrying this ambitious project, which has already been started. It is also being subsidized by the European Union.

The company ADTIM, subsidiary of the group Axione / Eiffage / ETDE / ETDE Investissement, has been entrusted by the principals with establishing and running the ADN network, on the basis of fulfilling a public service, with a concession for 25 years.

The total cost of the project amounts to 123M€ (\$184 million), with 73M€ provided by ADTIM, and public funding from the General Council of the Ardèche and of the Drôme (10M€ each), the Rhône-Alpes Région (20M€) and the European Union via the FEDER (10M€).

The fibre optic network provides ultra high speed broadband connection (100 Mbps) without any signal loss due to distance. The objective is to have in place by July 2010 a fibre optic network that will enable more than 372,000 homes to connect, via the ordinary phone line through 213 switchboards, to a "triple play" service offering high speed and ultra high speed Internet, telephone and television.

Subsidiary links will be provided for very isolated properties depending on circumstances ([Satellite-Fr](#)).

The use of WiFi or WiMax antennas has been dropped altogether because of the dangers to human health from electromagnetic radiation, a salutary and enlightened decision that is a world first!



The Ardèche Drôme Numérique network in figures:

- A mainline network of more than 2000km of fibre optics to construct or add to existing structures, 1100km of mechanized civil engineering work cutting mini-trenches to take the cables (sheathed in PVC or PE tubes), 708 communities covered for high speed and ultra high speed connection over more than 12,000km², 212 industrial estates and business areas served, 213 telephone switchboards, 500 public buildings connected (education, health, local organizations, etc.), 2000 business premises and 11,000 apartment blocks provided with individual FTTH (Fiber To The Home) sockets.

Report ["Fibre Optics and Civil Engineering: a technical innovation"](#)