



## Fast Increase of Collocations within the Frame of Local Loop Unbundling throughout Greece

### Boosting of Broadband Services in the Province is the Main Goal for EETT

The regional areas of the country, where telecommunication providers may offer broadband services through Local Loop Unbundling (LLU) increase rapidly. The intensive physical collocation space construction programme in OTE's Local Exchange Offices (LEO), which has already been completed in the areas of Attiki and Thessaloniki and all the other major cities, plays a decisive role in this development, while it is currently expanding rapidly in the remaining parts of Greece under constant and close supervision by EETT.

It is noted that by the end of 2007, collocation services will be offered by more than 160 LEO's of OTE. In this way, approximately 3,5 million telephone line owners in the entire country will be able to use LLU services, thus acquiring the ability to chose between more than one broadband service providers.

In the light of boosting of broadband services in the form of broadband network and infrastructure development in the regional areas of Greece, EETT monitors and intervenes according to its responsibilities in the course of implementation of programme 4.2 of the Information Society. Within this frame and following the analysis of

the respective Market, EETT proceeded with the appropriate regulatory actions and the imposition of obligations to OTE (which are provided for by the Reference Unbundling Offer - RUO), thus facilitating providers intending to develop activity in the provision of telecommunication services through



local loops both at the urban centers as well as the regional areas.

Given that the providers must be free to use technology of their choice for the provision of LLU services, and based on the regulations provided in RUO, OTE is under obligation to provide access to pertinent facilities which are necessary for the effective implementation of complete and shared access to the local loop, such as collocation of different types (physical, remote and virtual) and the connecting cables. Through physical collocation, the providers may install the appropriate equipment in OTE's local exchange office in order to connect the local loops to their network by means of their own infrastructure or the infrastructure of other providers of their choice.

Also, OTE is under obligation to negotiate in good faith and satisfy equally and timely all reasonable requests by the providers.

Furthermore, EETT, taking into consideration the particular geographical characteristics of the Greek Province as well as the capabilities of

OTE's access network in the province, boosts the provision of broadband services through wireless means. In particular, EETT has granted four Fixed Wireless Access permits in the frequency band of 3.5 GHz, the holders of which acquire the capability to develop wireless networks through WiMAX technology. The development of the networks in question will contribute decisively to the propagation of broadband services in the Province, allowing users to gain easy and fast broadband access to the Internet, even in the most remote areas of the country, where the use of LLU is not technically feasible or financially viable.

Aiming at the extensive development of broadband networks and also taking into account the fact that Wireless Access networks strengthen the participation of all citizens to the new digital environment being formed, EETT has released the use of the frequency band at 2.4 GHz and 5GHz so as to allow the creation of Wi-Fi networks without the need for a pertinent permit. Through Wi-Fi technology, the users are capable of gaining access to the broadband

network, as long as their computer or mobile phone is within range of the Wi-Fi antenna which is installed at Wi-Fi hotspots. Such hotspots may be provided in restaurants, cafeterias, hotels, shopping centers, etc.

At the same time, the development of broadband services is expanded through mobile telephony networks with the use of UMTS or HSDPA technologies that may offer fast broadband access speeds to the user, no matter where he is or even when on the move. EETT monitors the activity of three mobile telephony companies in the field and the presence of offer in the market for technologically innovative solutions at competitive prices.

Finally, with the continuous provision of information to the technical departments of Municipalities, Prefectures and Regions of the entire country on optical fiber network passing and rights of way, EETT contributes to the installation of modern and necessary infrastructures, aimed at the interconnection of the entire country with high speed and capacity networks.