

## New Technologies at the Service of the Country and the Citizens



### Fiber Optic Networks and Digital Dividend: Ministry's First Actions



by the Minister of Infrastructure, Transport and Networks,  
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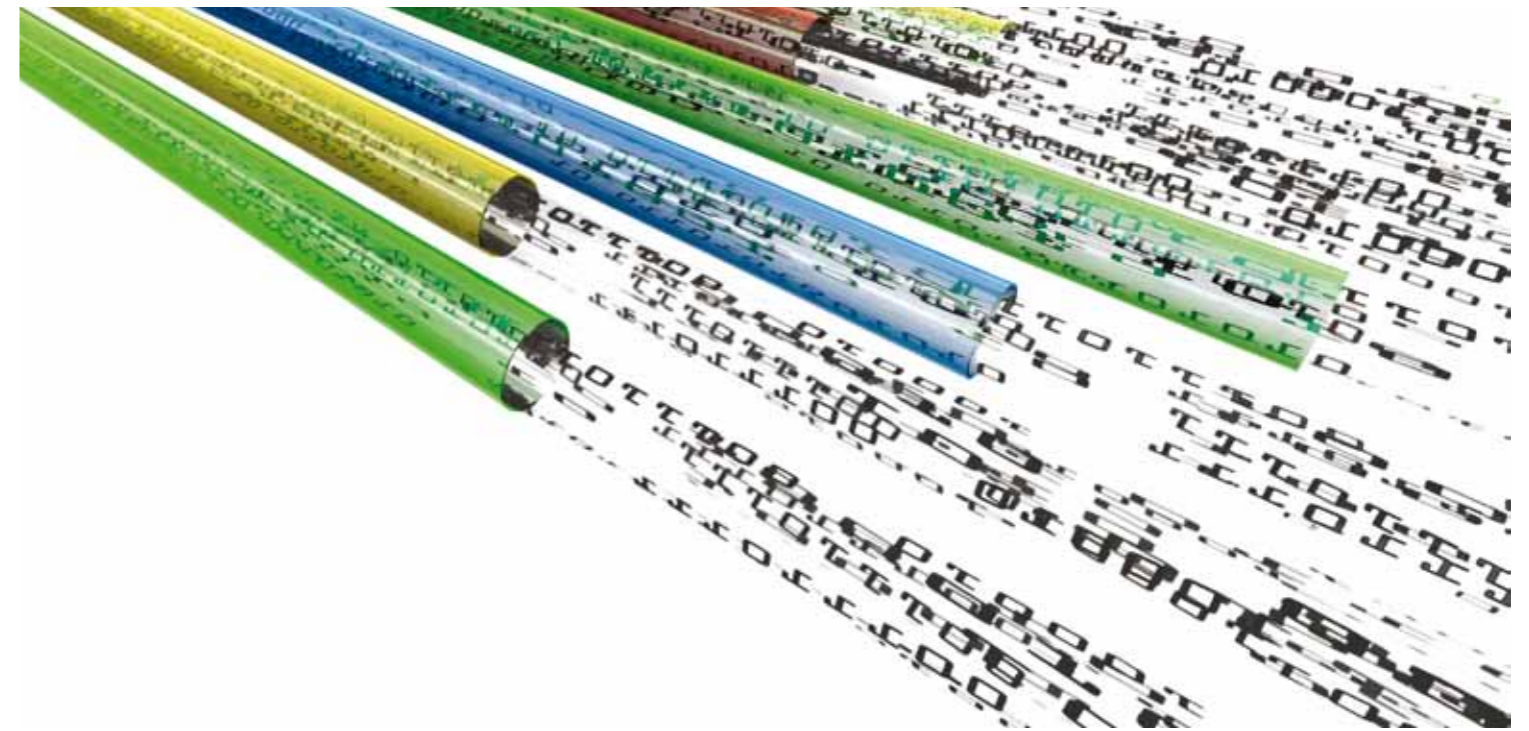
In the last century humanity has recorded impressive results in the field of telecommunications, as within a short period of time we have witnessed a technological revolution, comparable in terms of range and importance to the industrial revolution. The first demonstration of a wireless connection operating at a distance of nine miles, by the Italian inventor Guglielmo Marconi, in 1897, was soon followed by other great technological achievements, such as radio, telegraph, telephone and television, all of which have contributed decisively to the attainment of a higher level of civilisation

and an improved quality of life for modern societies.

However, evolution and progress have not stopped and, as a result, the days we live in find us at the borderline of developing and completing telecommunications networks that will lead to the creation of a global "telecommunications village". This special village is being designed with a focus on the provision of wide-ranging low-cost and high-quality telecommunications services, accessible by all, at any geographic location, at any moment in time, using the existing

telecommunications infrastructures or small mobile hand-held terminal devices.

The field of telecommunications is one of the Greek economy sectors showing great dynamism and a potential to develop even further, thereby increasing the country's competitiveness, boosting green growth and creating new jobs. In this respect, the Ministry of Infrastructure, Transport and Networks strategically invests in the promotion of broadband networks and in new technologies. Two of its most prominent strategic actions are aimed at strengthening access through broadband



infrastructures and at making best use of the digital dividend. With respect to the first, the Ministry has already set in motion the redesigning and implementation of the "Fiber To The Home (FTTH)" project, which relates to the development of an optic fiber network infrastructure to serve 2,000,000 households throughout the country. With respect to the second action, the Ministry, along with other co-competent Ministries, has taken steps towards evaluating the radiospectrum, which constitutes a rich national resource, and already prepares the legislative initiatives that need to be

taken in order to ensure best use of the digital dividend, to the benefit of the country and the Greek people.

EETT, like all respective regulatory authorities throughout Europe, is responsible for the smooth operation of the market and for its harmonisation with the rules of European Law. The contribution of each regulatory authority, when operating with true independence and professionalism, is catalytic for the quality of the telecommunications services provided, the creation of a sound climate of competition in the market, and the

protection of the consumer. Healthy competition, i.e. one which operates in conditions of transparency within a clearly shaped framework, can facilitate the growth of the new technologies industry and the provision of new, more functional and cost-effective services to the consumers.

I am positive that thanks to the apposite initiatives we have taken, Greece can stand out as a major player in the field of new technologies, and take on a leading role in the region of South-Eastern Europe and the Mediterranean.

