

ULTRA-FAST BROADBAND 5TH MARCH 2009

The regulatory framework applicable to fibre was defined in 2008:

- first, via provisions contained in the Law on modernising the economy, in particular concerning fibre rollouts and sharing indoor installations
- second, through ARCEP's adoption in July 2008 of a market analysis decision that establishes the regulatory framework applicable to broadband and ultra fast broadband.

Trials on systems for network mutualisation between several operators are currently underway. They involve some 20 sites and close to 2,000 households and are expected to enable ARCEP and the market players to deepen their mutual understanding of the technical, operational and economic issues involved in mutualisation.

As part of the ultra fast broadband Steering committee that launched in late 2008, ARCEP chairs a meeting between operators every two weeks to track and assess these trials, based on work being performed by three technical sub-committees that meet each week, and whose task is to:

- describe the different architectures tested and their operational mechanisms
- assess installation and operating costs
- establish technical specifications to ensure network interoperability

ARCEP also interacts regularly with other European countries (Italy, Switzerland, the Netherlands, the UK, Spain, Germany) on ultra-fast broadband issues, either during bilateral meetings or within the European Regulators Group (ERG).

A briefing will be conducted in late March under the aegis of the Secretary of State responsible for Economic Prospective and Development of the digital economy. At that time, the Authority will issue its first ultra-fast broadband scorecard.

Based on results and feedback, the Authority will gradually define the applicable rules of mutualisation. Assessments and trials will continue with the players.

And, finally, the Authority has already published a decision that establishes the principles and mechanisms for operators to exchange information on fibre-equipped buildings.