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completing the picture

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Global Invacom Helps with Innovative Housing Project Network in Cambuslang

Global Invacom, one of the world's largest satellite and TV peripherals manufacturers, has partnered with fibre-to-home specialist, Fibre Options, to supply its innovative FibreLNB and multiple FibreMDU convertors for one of the UK's largest fibre-to-home housing projects.

Global Invacom's Fibre MDU system forms part of a next generation network for a new community housing development of 100 homes in Cambuslang - on the outskirts of Glasgow - built and managed by the West Whitlawburn Housing Co-operative (WWHC).

The co-operative launched the pioneering communications network to provide residents with high-speed broadband and access to employment, healthcare and educational services delivered over the internet. The Whitcomm Co-operative was formed to provide day to day management of the network and administer service delivery to the residents.



Site plan highlighting the 100 new homes

WWHC director, Paul Farrell, said: "We have always been innovative in our approach to community regeneration and we believe that there is huge potential to be gained for our community in developing a next generation communications infrastructure that is future proof and will offer our tenants more than triple play. Digital exclusion compounds social exclusion and we see the provision of superior broadband as a critical component of improving the quality of our residents' lives."

In addition to triple-play services based on a GPON platform, the network supports home-help alarms via a VoIP service, CCTV over fibre optics to ensure evidence-quality video, and has capacity for community-generated video content such as training and information services.

The network features a sophisticated IPTV service that provides an array of standard and special interest channels and offers a messaging service allowing WWHC to communicate with residents via their TVs. There is also a PC-on-TV service that allows those without access to a computer in the home to use the internet via their televisions, with the aid of a special keyboard.

Fibre Options managing director, Mark Trojacek, said: “Despite access to a wide array of television channels, it soon became apparent that there was an appetite for premium services. Football is obviously a passion for the Glasgow community and there was a strong demand for satellite channels offering sports and as well as movie content. Restrictions on the installation of satellite dishes on the attractive new properties meant that this service had to be delivered over the network. Fortunately we had anticipated this and had terminated a second fibre in every home to accommodate additional television services.

“Although the Global Invacom system is designed for plug-and-play installation, it was equally well suited to deployment over our fixed network and the cost effective nature of the system made it the obvious choice. Installation was a breeze and given that we had precise control over the passive infrastructure, we were able to guarantee a quality feed to 64 subscribers from the single dish. The system proved so popular that 55 of the 100 homes elected to receive the service.”