



CMA Adds Its Welcome to the Caio report on Next Generation Broadband.

15 September 2008: Communications Management Association (CMA) - speaking for its UK business broadband user membership - has welcomed the government's Caio report on Next Generation Broadband and supports the proposal that telecoms and internet companies should finance a new broadband infrastructure.

According to David Harrington, regulatory forum leader at the CMA, "Not only does the report endorse the need for broadband as a major enhancer of enterprise and creator of wealth, but it also emphasises that Ofcom (supported by government) must assume leadership in the process.

"CMA believes that in rejecting the case for an immediate injection of government subsidy, but recommending an immediate start on policy initiatives (and their associated planning) this will encourage and facilitate national broadband coverage the Caio report echoes CMA's long-term stance.

"CMA especially welcomes Mr Caio's positive approach to the issues. He identifies four main areas where government action is needed to support investment, further defined as ten initiatives, or specific and detailed actions, such as creating an overall framework and implementation path, accelerating the release of spectrum, resolving the long-running saga of unfair business rates on infrastructure, making new buildings fibre-friendly and ways of reducing civil works costs.

"All of these things have been addressed or protested by CMA over the last few years and we are therefore delighted to see them reflected by Mr Caio. We sense that at long last the UK is off and running on the broadband track and we now await Ofcom's Statement on NGA together the government's response to the report."

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CMA (The Communications Management Association) is the UK's premier independent membership body for professionals and organisations focused on exploiting communications, networking and ICT for business advantage. We have been supporting telecoms and ICT professionals and organisations within private and public sectors for 50 years. Through our research & analysis, specialist forums, publications and events we provide the assistance, information, training and representation so essential in an ever changing business environment.

Our goal is to ensure that CMA's members, who spend £13.4 billion in the communications market annually are the best informed professionals in the industry. CMA is the definitive voice of the ICT user on key issues to government and regulatory authorities. We work directly with Ofcom in the UK and are represented internationally through our membership of the international telecoms user group - INTUG.

In 2007 CMA joined the BCS Group to strengthen both organisations. This will enable the BCS to have a stronger offering in the field of communications and for CMA to have access to new resources and a wider community of IT professionals.

The British Computer Society (BCS) is the Chartered industry body for IT professionals, the Chartered Engineering Institution for Information Technology and a Chartered Science Institution. With our rapidly growing membership, BCS is playing an increasingly pivotal role in leading the development and implementation of world class standards for the IT profession through innovative products, services and support.

Through our specific "Professionalism in IT" programme, BCS is leading and building IT professionalism to levels which are currently only seen in more traditional long standing professions such as law, medicine, and accountancy but which will increasingly become the de facto standards for IT professionals.