

## Britain's Slow Broadband Speeds Dampens UK Business Edge

**3 July 2008: Britain's comparatively slow broadband speeds are threatening business efficiency, warns the Communications Management Association (CMA). This is because lack of provision to meet predicted demands will frustrate companies' e-commerce operations.**

Over a third of UK businesses predict they will need speeds of 100 Mbps to be able to meet future demand for next generation internet technology, according to the CMA's *Next Generation Access* report, the first major survey of UK business broadband needs.

Yet around a third questioned by the CMA, the representative body for business users of communication, networks and services, say they currently do not receive satisfactory access to internet technology—such as infrastructure, services and applications.

The CMA, whose members spend £13 billion a year on communications and networks, is renewing its call for the government to create a national broadband strategy that anticipates the massive rise in demand for next generation access (NGA) to the internet over the next 12-24 months.

David Harrington, CMA's director of regulatory affairs, says: "The gap between government rhetoric and formulation of policy appears to be as wide as ever. Back in April last year, we warned there was a limited window of opportunity over the next 12-24 months to develop and implement a concerted and innovative approach to regulation and policy-making that would lead to a market-led transition to next generation broadband.

"Fourteen months on, there is little sign of either a concerted or innovative approach to regulation and policy-making, which the government acknowledged as recently as last September as being necessary."<sup>2</sup>

The survey—compiled in association with Ofcom and Openreach, a division of BT which ensures that rival operators have equal access to BT's own network—reveals that:

- At least 57 per cent of businesses questioned desire 10 Mbps or higher for their core business needs
- 38 per cent cited that the main business benefits of NGA were improved bandwidth/speed/quality

More than one in four companies would be willing to pay more for NGA. However, nearly a half were not. These were typically very large organizations, which already used high bandwidth services.

For the executive summary of the report see: [www.thecma.com/index.cfm?s=10&dir=814312](http://www.thecma.com/index.cfm?s=10&dir=814312)

**Ends**

### Editors' notes:

<sup>2</sup>On the 18th September 2007 the Rt Hon Stephen Timms MP, the then Minister of State for Competitiveness, said: "Before too long, the wider economy is going to need high speed broadband. The high speed broadband networks being deployed elsewhere for multi-channel TV will increasingly be used in other commercial applications. The growing number of people working at home will require high speed connections to support them....all these trends are pushing up the bandwidths which are going to be required across the economy....services and applications coming onto the market will only be properly exploited and enjoyed if the bandwidth exists to deliver them to the end user....the infrastructure must be capable of delivering high speed broadband to all."

**Editors for further information contact:**

**Christopher Webb**

**Head of Press & Public Relations**

**The British Computer Society**

**Tel: 01793 417569**

**Email: [press@hq.bcs.org.uk](mailto:press@hq.bcs.org.uk)**

**Website: [www.bcs.org](http://www.bcs.org)**

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.