

UK must implement high performance telecommunications infrastructure to compete on global basis

19 February 2009: According to findings in the latest CMA survey, 94% of businesses believe that the UK needs a high performance telecommunications infrastructure in every part of the country in order for the UK to compete on a global basis. CMA, part of the BCS group, is the representative body for business users of communication, networks and services.

95% of businesses believe that the UK needs to act now to regain its place in the top ten broadband nations and over half of businesses reported that they want SDSL but can't get it where they need it (55%).

Glenn Powell, Chief Executive of CMA, says: "This shows the urgency with which the measures proposed by the recent interim Digital Britain report are needed. We welcome the measures proposed in Lord Stephen Carter's report which we believe, if implemented, will enable British companies to remain competitive in the current tough economic climate."

Cutting carbon emissions also emerged as key area for concern for many telecoms businesses, with 76% of businesses reporting that their company regarded climate change as an urgent issue to be addressed.

Additional figures on this subject include:

- 58% of businesses said they were focused on minimising their impact on the environment and maximising their contribution to society.
- 60% said they would make the best use of technology to reduce travel and energy requirements
- 54% were focused on reducing power consumption.

Powell says: "These figures are validation of the industry's efforts to reduce its environmental impact and reflects the degree of interest we've witnessed in our Carbon Intent project, funded by the Carbon Trust, to encourage organisations to adopt strategies that can make a significant difference to carbon emissions and to the bottom line."

The survey also revealed that mobile workers and communication tools are on the increase. 64% of businesses who responded said that they had witnessed an increase in mobile workers and 81% said that connected handheld devices were a 'key factor' in their communications and networks strategies – a significant year on year increase from 74% 2007 and 68% in 2006.

The report is available for purchase. Further information and the top line results of the CMA's Communications in Business 2008 report can be found at:

http://www.thecma.com/survey/Communications_in_Business_2008/

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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.