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CTVR secures €8.1m EU funding for broadband project

DISCUS could bring massive improvement to rural telecommunications infrastructure



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TechLife | 09 Jan 2013 : A major telecommunications project exploring new ways to use optical fibre to build simplified broadband networks for urban and rural areas has been awarded €8.1 million in EU funding.

DISCUS was awarded funding under the European Union Seventh Framework Programme is being coordinated by CTVR, the national telecommunications research centre headquartered at Trinity College Dublin.

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The project seeks to address issues at the heart of the fibre-optic broadband provision: the growing demand for services like high definition video streaming and gaming.

A three-year project, DISCUS will bring together 13 industry and academic partners from Ireland, Belgium, Germany, Spain, Italy, UK, Sweden and France. Of the €8.1 million EU contribution, €2.78 million is for work to be conducted in Ireland at Trinity College Dublin, UCC and Tyndall National Institute.

DISCUS uses technology - Long-Reach Passive Optical Networks - enables fibre network operators to dramatically reduce contention rates and increase geographical reach without the need for additional exchanges.

In Ireland this means that a successful rollout could give 100% coverage and consolidate 1,000 telecom local exchanges into some 20 central nodes, reducing capital and operational costs and power consumption.

Total investment in this project is €11.7 million, of which €8.1 million has been contributed by the EU and the remainder is provided by the partners involved.

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