CTVR secures €8.1m EU funding for broadband project
DISCUS could bring massive improvement to rural telecommunications infrastructure

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.

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, €7.6 million is for work to be conducted in Ireland at Trinity College Dublin, UCC and Tyndall National Institute.

A cautious welcome

DISCUS uses technology – Long-Reach Passive Optical Networks – enabling fibre network operators to dramatically reduce investment costs 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 telecoms 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 €9.8 million has been contributed by the EU and the remainder is provided by the partners involved.

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