



Quarterly Update: April to June 2014



Digital Scotland Superfast Broadband (DSSB) – Phase Announcements

By the end of 2017, across the South of Scotland, it is anticipated that there will be 100% coverage of premises with access to a minimum speed of 2 mbps, with approximately 94% of premises having access to Next Generation enabled infrastructure. Given the scale of the project, the rollout is being delivered in a number of phases across Scotland; it's not possible to rollout fibre technology in every area at the same time.

The Scottish Government announced in January 2014 that more than 5,700 homes and businesses in the Scottish Borders will get the fibre broadband as part of the Digital Scotland Superfast Broadband project. Nearly 5,200 premises in Melrose and Selkirk, and an additional 570 premises will be connected in Galashiels, as a result of building upon its existing fibre broadband.

In Dumfries and Galloway, more than 3,600 homes and businesses will get fibre broadband. It is expected that more than 3,100 premises in Amisfield and Castle Douglas, with an additional 460 premises in Dumfries, again as a result of building upon its existing fibre broadband.

A further announcement was made in April 2014, which added more detail to the Phase 1 announcement, detailing the additional communities that would receive support through the DSSB rollout programme.

The Phase 2 announcements are expected by the end of July 2014.

The reason for a phased approach is to ensure that the information that is made public is as accurate as possible and that a high degree of certainty can be provided to the public. In a civil engineering project of this size and complexity, forward looking plans are subject to change. Final, detailed local surveys will be carried out shortly before deployment begins.

It is expected to see the first homes and businesses being able to connect to the new infrastructure across the South of Scotland by the end of June 2014.

The Project Team is continuing to liaise closely with the Digital Scotland Team to ensure that an appropriate demand stimulation campaign can be targeted at those communities with access to the new infrastructure to encourage uptake and to ensure communities are aware of the benefits that can be delivered through access to superfast broadband.





South of Scotland Broadband Project Team

As mentioned above, the Project team are continuing to work locally on the Demand Stimulation Plans to encourage uptake of the new infrastructure by individuals, businesses and communities.

The Project website (link below) is currently being reviewed to be aligned more closely with the Digital Scotland website (link below). The refreshed website will also include detailed information on Demand Stimulation activities and will signpost users to existing information and organisations that can offer support to individuals and businesses to access.

The Project Team also has Facebook and Twitter Accounts that anyone can follow for updates on the project. Please register with these to get all the latest information.

South of Scotland Broadband website www.southofscotlandbroadband.co.uk

Digital Scotland website www.digitalscotland.org/superfast-broadband

Twitter: @SoSBroadband

Facebook: South of Scotland Broadband

Demand Stimulation Programme – Stewartry

The South of Scotland Broadband Project Team are working closely with Castle Douglas IT Centre to deliver a robust Demand Stimulation Plan within the Stewartry, following the proposed DSSB rollout programme “going live” within the Stewartry.

As a result of this close partnership working, which includes links to the Digital Scotland Communications Team, the BT bus will be in Kirkcudbright on 24th July and Castle Douglas on 25th July – details are still being finalised but will be promoted and advertised by the Castle Douglas IT Centre in the weeks running up to the event.

The IT Centre will then be running a series of roadshows throughout the Stewartry as the exchanges in the communities are upgraded.

For more information or to register for the Newsletter, please visit www.create-nwe.eu

For All Enquiries, please contact the South of Scotland Broadband Programme Office:

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CREATE



CREATE (Connecting Rural Enterprise for A Transnational Economy) is a European funded project through the Interreg IVb Funding stream. The project is being led by Herefordshire Council (England) and Scottish Enterprise (Scotland) is a partner on the project, along with Nièvre (France), VOKA Chamber of Commerce (Belgium), ERNACT, Mid-West Regional Authority (Rep. of Ireland). The project is about stimulating demand within rural SMEs to use the broadband infrastructure that is currently being delivered, to grow and improve their business.

Regional Workshops were held throughout seven rural Scotland locations, with the Dumfries and Galloway workshop being held in Castle Douglas on Wednesday 7th May and one in Selkirk on Tuesday 6th May for the Scottish Borders.

These events were well attended by SMEs, Business Gateway and the Digital Scotland to discuss the DSSB Rollout Programme and how CREATE can add value to the rollout.

Eight CREATE Advisors are being appointed across the SE area of Scotland and they will be able to offer 1:1 sessions with Rural SMEs to discuss and advise how the business can take advantage of the broadband infrastructure – both existing infrastructure and the Superfast Broadband infrastructure – that will help the growth of their business.

The advisors time is provided through the Project and appointments can be made through the website or by getting in touch with Louise Ramsay, Scottish Chambers of Commerce on 0141 204 8316.

