Fastweb and Huawei Build the 200Gbps Optical Network ready for Intent-Driven Network Evolution

The network covers from Sicily to Milan and Turin with optical ASON (Automatically Switched Optical Network) and 200Gbps capabilities.

[Milan, Italy, June 22 2018] Fastweb and Huawei have completed the first Flexible Optical Network deployment: over 2,300 km between Milan and the South of Sicily, providing 200 Gbps capabilities with full resiliency and services continuity through optical ASON *(Automatically Switched Optical Network)* technology.

The project finalizes the collaboration started in September 2017, when Fastweb launched the first Flexible Next Generation Optical Network in partnership with Huawei, with a startup capacity of 2Tbps and covering more than 2 thousand kilometers nationwide. Then, in November 2017, Fastweb released the 100Gbps regeneration-free with optical ASON services over 2,300 km between Milan and the South of Sicily and in January 2018 the 200Gbps regeneration-free with optical ASON services over 800 km between Milan and Rome. The Flexible Optical Network is now connecting also the most important Data Centers and Submarine Landing Stations in Italy and Fastweb is offering these services to both the Wholesale and Enterprise markets.

Through ASON technology Fastweb can provide versatile service level differentiation and ultra-high speed connections thanks to the flexible and automatic re-routing of the data traffic in case of temporary interruption. ASON delivers the reliability, the flexibility, and robustness that next-generation optical transport requires, while enabling service differentiation and reducing operations and maintenance costs. It also provides real-time allocation on demand of network resources, E2E service scheduling, and automatic network recovery, thus enabling intelligent optical network operation.

“Fastweb Flexible Optical Network overall capacity has grown 4-fold overtaking 8Tbps in less than 9 months. It is a confirmation of the quality and performance we can deliver through it, and a tangible proof of the high grade of flexibility to provide resiliency, scalability and simplification for both the network itself and its provisioning and assurance processes. It is the cornerstone of the new era of Transport Services” - said Andrea Lasagna, CTO at Fastweb – “Through the long-term cooperation with Huawei, Fastweb aims to continue to evolve towards the strategic 400Gbps by the end of 2018 and SDN automation to fully support the coming 5G era. We are in the field trial phase with the Software Defined Network (SDN) focusing on fast provisioning, automation and prediction first".

Richard Jin, President of Transmission Network Product Line, Huawei, said, "It is a great honor to work with Fastweb to build the 200G backbone. Through the 200G ASON ready for Intent-Driven Network evolution, it can support fast-growing cloud services and future 5G and 4K services in a reliable, fast, and agile manner. Currently, we have deployed over 70 200G optical networks globally".

The network utilizes Huawei's leading CDCG backbone OTN WDM and includes optical-layer and electrical-layer ASON, programmable 100G/200G, Flex Grid and built-in OTDR, achieving visualized Operation & Maintenance, managing network-wide fiber resources and service quality in real time, increasing its efficiency on both the technical and economic perspectives.

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About Huawei
Huawei is a leading global provider of information and communications technology (ICT) infrastructure and smart devices. With integrated solutions across four key domains – telecom networks, IT, smart devices, and cloud services – we are committed to bringing digital to every person, home and organization for a fully connected, intelligent world. Huawei's end-to-end portfolio of products, solutions and services are both competitive and secure. Through open collaboration with ecosystem partners, we create lasting value for our customers, working to empower people, enrich home life, and inspire innovation in organizations of all shapes and sizes. At Huawei, innovation focuses on customer needs. We invest heavily in basic research, concentrating on technological breakthroughs that drive the world forward. We have more than 180,000 employees, and we operate in more than 170 countries and regions. Founded in 1987, Huawei is a private company fully owned by its employees.

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About Fastweb Italy
With 2.4 million customers, Fastweb is a major Italian telecommunications operator. The company offers a wide range of voice and data services, fixed communication and mobile, to households and businesses. Since its creation in 1999, the company has focused on innovation and network infrastructure to provide high quality ultra-broadband services. Fastweb has developed a national fiber optic network infrastructure of 46,600 kilometers with over 4 million kilometers of fiber and, at present, passes about 8 million homes and businesses with fiber-to-the-home or fiber-to-the-cabinet technology. By 2020 Fastweb plans to reach with

ultra-broadband network 13 million households (50% of the population), of which 5 million with Ftth technology with speed up to 1 Gigabit and 8 million with technology FttCab with speed of up to 200 Mbps. The company offers its customers new generation mobile services based on 4G technology and 4G Plus. By 2020, the mobile service will be strengthened, starting from the big cities, thanks to the creation of a next-generation 5G infrastructure based on small-cell technology. Fastweb partners with businesses of all sizes, from start-ups and small and medium enterprises, to the largest corporates and the public sector offering advanced telecommunication and ICT services, such as housing, cloud computing, security and unified communication. The Company has been part of the Swisscom Group since September 2007.