

NEWS RELEASE

Public Sector Develops Business With Dark Fibre Connectivity From FibreSpan

29 October 2005, UNITED KINGDOM: The Welsh Development Agency (WDA), in its role of stimulating business growth and attracting inward investment into the region, plans to deploy a dark fibre network which links 50+ business parks throughout Wales. The WDA has appointed FibreSpan to deliver the first link and will benefit from the affordable unlimited bandwidth, scalability and flexibility of FibreSpan's dark fibre solution.

The WDA is positioning Wales as a leading business location, underpinned by a fast, reliable and cost effective infrastructure to keep businesses connected with the world. One contributory initiative is to link major business parks to the existing fibre backbone – the "All Wales Network". Independent consultants have advised the WDA to deploy dark fibre, providing complete control over the usage and capacity of the network.

The organisation approached FibreSpan based on its reputation of providing the most competitive dark fibre solution and responsive service. FibreSpan was awarded the contract against blue-chip competition, having matched the WDA's deployment and budget requirements for immediate and forthcoming phases of the initiative.

In March 2004, FibreSpan worked with the WDA to implement the first phase of the project, which was to link the first business park to the nearest backbone POP. Using its patent-pending microduct technology, FibreSpan rapidly deployed the link within agreed time-scales, providing the WDA with access to a bespoke, fully maintained, leased dark fibre circuit.

The relationship between FibreSpan and the WDA will not only continue throughout the leasing agreement, but also in the implementation of the forthcoming phases of the programme – ensuring that the WDA continues to benefit from a flawless and competitive networking solution.

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For further information please contact Robert Bicket, Chief Executive, FibreSpan on
+44 (0)23 8057 4590 or rbicket@fibrespan.co.uk.

About FibreSpan - fibrespan.co.uk

FibreSpan is a fibre solutions company with a national telecommunications licence. It designs, installs, operates and leases private dark fibre circuits, working in partnership with health and education, local authorities and other multi-site organisations. Established in 2001, it is an independent UK national statutory utility, licensed by the DTI and regulated by Ofcom.

It is FibreSpan's goal to make fibre optic connectivity a viable solution for organisations throughout the UK. In order to achieve this the company has invested in developing patent-pending microduct technology that is swiftly changing the face of fibre optic deployment – allowing access to bespoke dark fibre connectivity at an affordable and competitive rate.

FibreSpan offer an end-to-end service that includes consultation, network planning, rapid deployment and comprehensive support. Its dark fibre networks offer unlimited bandwidth at a fixed cost for the term of the contract - a genuinely future proof solution. This puts FibreSpan in a unique position to enable clients to have complete control of future bandwidth demand.

About WDA - wda.co.uk

Working for the people, businesses and communities of Wales, the WDA has played a pivotal role in the outstanding economic development success of Wales. Stimulating the growth of business in Wales, attracting world-class companies to invest in the country and working with local communities to encourage prosperity have been the cornerstones of this success.

The WDA's head office is located in Cardiff, the capital city of Wales, and one of

the most vibrant cities in Europe. It has offices in all of the key regions in Wales and in many countries throughout the world. The WDA is accountable to the Welsh Assembly Government.