



The Laajakaistaakyläin (Broadband to the Villages) Project

Background

The following villages are involved in the project: Jyrynkylä in Kurikka, Salonkylä and Järvikylä in Karijoki, and Puskankylä and Uuronkylä in Kauhajoki. Before the project, there was no broadband connection at all in these villages. The decision by the local telephone operator to discontinue its landline network in the area took away the last hopes of the area's inhabitants for the opportunity to have a fixed broadband connection.

Consequently, the inhabitants of these villages started to work out for themselves how it might be possible to obtain a broadband connection for the villages. Since the mobile telephone network connections in the area were weak, the only option was to construct a fibre-optic network.

Objective

The aim of the project was to improve the vitality of the area by setting-up an operational broadband connection for 5 villages where no such connection had existed before.

Main Activities

With the project's help, a trunk line for a fibre-optic network was built for the villages, and all the villagers now have the chance to connect to it. A total of approximately 32 km of trunk line were laid with the project's assistance and 59 properties were connected.

The trunk line was built by Suupohjan Seutuverkko Oy (Suupohja Regional Network Oy) and Leader funding was obtained for it through Suupohjan kehittämissyhdystys ry (the Suupohja Development Association).

The fibre-optic network is open, which means that Seutuverkko owns and maintains the network whilst the service providers come from elsewhere. In other words, all service providers, both big and small, compete at the same level and the villagers can choose freely between them.



At a glance:

Theme:

Rural Quality of Life and Economic Diversification

Sub-themes(s):

Improving the quality of life in rural areas

Keywords:

Broadband
Entrepreneurship
Infrastructure
Quality of life
Village renewal

Country/Region:

Finland/South
Ostrobothnia

Beneficiary Type:

Individual farmers
Others

Project Cost:

€100,000 – 500,000

RDP Measure:

321 – Basic services for the economy and rural population

Duration:

Start date: August 2008
End date: December 2009

Last updated:

16 December 2010

Results and Benefits

The 59 properties that connected to the data network now have fibre-optic connections in use that enable Internet connection at speeds of up to 100 Mb. *"The fibre-optic network has also brought television reception up to standard"* says Anne-Mari Leppinen of Suupohjan Seutuverkko Oy.

Fast, functional data traffic connections are key factors in achieving a competitive advantage for businesses. Safety cameras for tourist farms and real-time monitoring of conditions and animal welfare for domestic animal production ensure that consumers can enjoy higher-quality foodstuffs and products than before.

Active data traffic connections are increasingly essential for farms to operate. For example, many 'robotic milking machines' search for updates automatically and this is not possible without an active broadband connection. Active broadband connections also improve opportunities for remote working and long-distance learning in the area, which increase job satisfaction in the villages and the vitality of the area. Plus the broadband connection can also be exploited in future to improve care services for elderly people living at home.



Lessons Learnt

Because Seutuverkko is an open network, both large national operators and small local sole traders can become service providers. This has proved to be a good operational model since it creates opportunities for a large number of businesses.

The inhabitants of the villages can also take advantage of the opportunities generated by the fibre-optic network when they reorganise services in their own area (e.g. services for elderly people living at home).

Project Cost

EUR 180,000

Contact Information

Project website: n/a

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