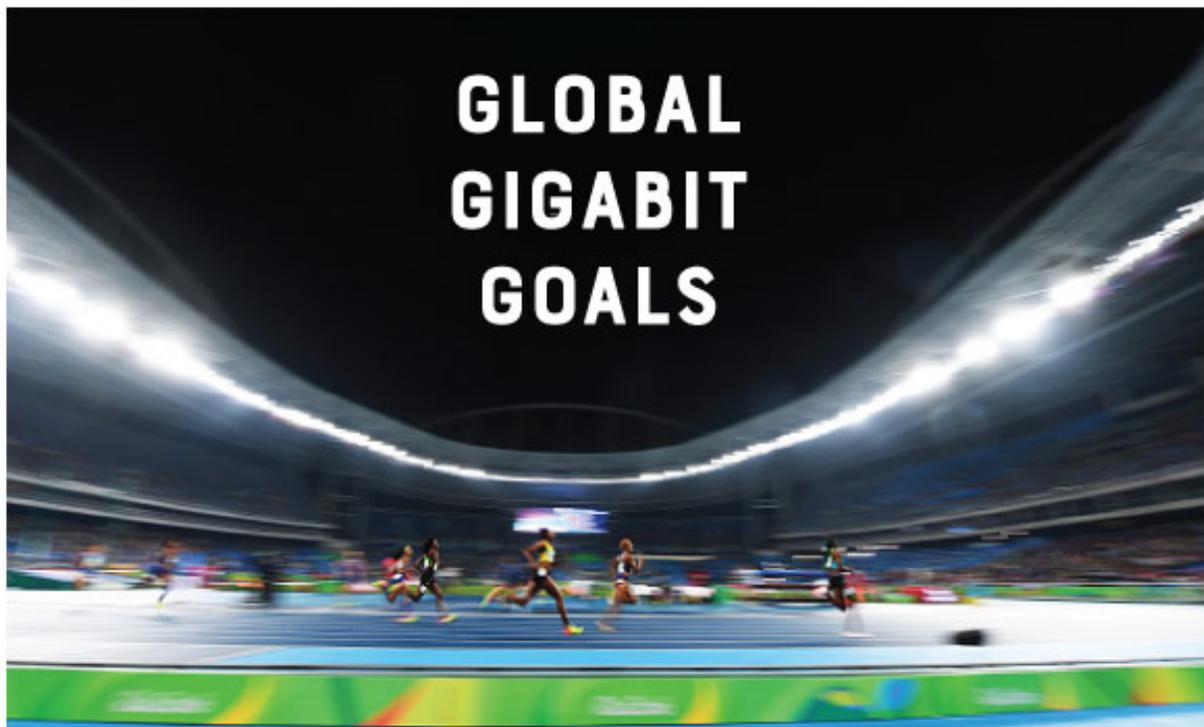


# THE RACE TO FASTER BROADBAND SPEEDS

A look at the  
internet speed goals  
of other nations  
around the world



## 1 Gigabit and Fiber Broadband Goals Set by Other Nations

The United States is currently having a debate over keeping slower broadband speed benchmarks in Congress and at the FCC. We are the only nation having this debate.

Other nations are moving aggressively to deploy and install faster speed future proof fiber to homes and businesses to attract the jobs of the future. China, the European Union, the United Kingdom and other countries who have set gigabit and/or fiber goals by 2025. Building symmetrical capacity that will leave all other slower and outdated asymmetrical networks, including America's current 25/3 Mbps broadband standard, in the dust.

INCOMPAS is urging Congress to set broadband goals in the infrastructure plan that will ensure every American and the communities where they live and work have broadband networks that will meet their immediate and long-term needs. Prioritizing federal funding for the deployment of new, faster and more resilient networks that can meet our nation's needs today and in the future also will ensure that our nation can compete in the international arena. This is critical to education, healthcare, manufacturing, and the innovation economy.

U.S. cities, small towns and rural areas have all told Congress they want gigabit service to be the goal and standard because they want to compete for the jobs of the future. Below we set forth our research on the goals and efforts of other countries to deliver the networks of the future in an effort to make clear that the United States cannot afford to delay deployment of the fastest networks possible. We need faster networks, fast.

### **Austria- [Broadband Strategy 2030](#)**

Austria's broadband strategy focuses on the nationwide supply of Gigabit connections by 2030. Was adopted in August 2019. It aims at full coverage of symmetric Gigabit connections throughout the country by 2030. In addition to the long-term objective, the 2030 strategy also includes five concrete interim goals:

- Phase 1: Full-coverage of ultra-fast broadband connections (100 Mbps) by the end of 2020
- Phase 2: Market launch of 5G in all capital cities by the end of 2020
- Phase 3: Austria as 5G pilot country until the beginning of 2021
- Phase 4: 5G services on major traffic connections by the end of 2023
- Phase 5: Nationwide Gigabit connections, including nationwide coverage of 5G, by the end of 2025

### **Belgium- [Digital Belgium](#)**

Belgium's broadband strategy is incorporated into a broader policy strategy "Digital Belgium – Plan for Ultrafast Internet in Belgium 2015-2020". The aim is to provide speeds of up to 1 Gbps to half of the country by 2020, to ensure a 4G and LTE Advanced roll-out throughout Belgium and to facilitate a proactive 5G roll-out.

### **Canada- [2019 Connectivity Strategy](#)**

The minimum target speed for all Canadians is 50 Mbps download and 10 Mbps upload. But connectivity demands are expected to continue to increase beyond the 50/10 Mbps target. New applications and uses will continue to be developed and introduced into the market. Recognizing this, the 50/10 Mbps target is a minimum, and investments will make every effort to be scalable to higher speeds in the future, including up to speeds of 1 gigabit per second.

**China-** China's government has made incredible progress building out a fiber network to enable fast home, business, and 5G connectivity. As of 2019, one report indicates that 86% of the country had fiber connectivity. "[R]ates of fiber deployment have steadily accelerated since 2013, with a staggering 86 percent of the population now serviced by the next-generation connection type. The report goes on to state that this number accounts for 96 percent of the villages in the country, showcasing just how far-reaching China's aggressive rollout has really been." Another report finds that 57% of fiber connections worldwide by 2023 will be in China.

**News Article- [China's Fiber Broadband Internet Approaches Nationwide Coverage; United States Lags Severely Behind | BroadbandNow](#)**

**News Article- [NEXST #1 - 19 | Asia to lead in Gigabit broadband \(prysmiangroup.com\)](#)**

### **EU- [Connectivity for a European Gigabit Society](#)**

The EU set ambitious connectivity objectives for 2025:

- 100 Mbps networks reaching all European households by 2025, with the possibility to upgrade those networks to reach much higher speeds
- Gigabit connectivity connecting all main socio-economic drivers - such as schools, universities, research centers, transport hubs, hospitals, public administrations, and enterprises relying on digital technologies - should have access to gigabit connectivity
- **News Article- [EU's new Telecom Regulatory Framework promotes fiber network \(capacitymedia.com\)](#)**

### **Finland- [Digital Infrastructure Strategy](#)**

Published in October 2018 by the Ministry of Transport and Communications, determines objectives for the development of the digital infrastructure in Finland by 2025 as well as the methods for achieving this objective. By 2025 all households should have access to at least 100 Mbps connections. It should be possible to increase the speed of the connection to 1 Gbps.

**France-** France commits to covering its entire territory with high-speed broadband (30 Mbps) by 2022. Furthermore, the National Broadband Plan, [France Très Haut Débit](#), foresees extending optical fiber to subscribers throughout the country by 2025.

- **News Article-** [France sees 2025 as new goal for ultra-fast broadband roll-out | Reuters](#)

#### **Germany-** [Gigabit Initiative by 2025](#)

The 2018 coalition agreement of the German Federal Government identifies the priority goal of a nationwide expansion of gigabit networks by 2025.

- **News Article-** [Germany to invest 100 billion into national gigabit internet network | Germany| News and in-depth reporting from Berlin and beyond | DW | 07.03.2017](#)

**Greece-** The [national next generation broadband access plan 2014-2020](#) sets a roadmap for achieving these conditions. The national targets of availability and use of broadband connections of high and ultra-high-speed act as a catalyst for digital development. The action [Superfast Broadband \(SFBB\)](#) aims at supporting citizens through vouchers to acquire an Internet connection of at least 100 Mbps, upgradable to 1 Gbps.

**Luxembourg-** Broadband coverage already reaches almost 100% and Luxembourg is among the European leaders in terms of broadband coverage and penetration. The national broadband plan aims for networks with ultra-high-speed rates of 1 Gbps download and 500 Mbps upload for 100% of the population in 2020.

#### **Netherlands-** [Dutch Digitalisation Strategy](#)

The Dutch government supports the Gigabit Society targets. All households should have the opportunity to access broadband networks of at least 100 Mbps and a vast majority should be taking advantage of 1 Gbps by 2023.

#### **Sweden-** [Completely Connected Sweden by 2025](#)

The objective of the strategy is that 95% of all households and businesses should have access to broadband at a minimum capacity of 100 Mbps by 2020. The strategy goes beyond 2020 and states that by 2025 all of Sweden should have access to high-speed broadband. That implies that 98% of all households and businesses should have access to broadband at a minimum capacity of 1 Gbps.

**South Korea-** South Korea is [leading the way](#) in regard to upgrading its networks to next-generation fiber-optic technology. In 2012, the Korean Communications Commission (KCC) revealed it would spend approximately \$24.6 billion on improvements in the nation's broadband infrastructure towards the goal of increasing speeds for fixed line broadband services to 1 Gbps, and now the country aims to offer 10 Gbps speeds to approximately 50 percent of subscribers by the end of 2022.

- **News article-** [South Korea Seeks Internet Speed of 1 Gigabit a Second - The New York Times \(nytimes.com\)](#)
- **News article-** [South Korea to fund 10Gb internet push | ZDNet](#)

#### **UK-** [The National Infrastructure Strategy](#)

Outlines how the Government is working with industry to target a minimum of 85% gigabit-capable coverage by 2025.

- **News Article-** [Report: Gigabit broadband reaches 1 in 4 UK homes | \(advanced-television.com\)](#)
- **News Article-** [Gigabit broadband: Watered-down plans a 'kick in the teeth' - BBC News](#)

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