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Perth, 20/02/03

Letter to: Mr. Peter Zangl
Deputy Director General
Information Society DG
European Commission
B-1049 Brussels
Belgium

Subject: Powerline Communications

Our ref: KM / 2003-01

Dear Mr Zangl,

I would like to thank the Commission for the invitation to my colleague, Michael Koch, and me to attend the Broadband Conference in Brussels on 28 January 2002 on behalf of the PLC Forum. We both found the event informative and a good opportunity to network with significant representatives, from both public and private sector, in the broadband community.

I would also like to express my gratitude to you personally for the opportunity to address the meeting on the subject of Powerline Communications (PLC). We feel that this still under-represented and often misunderstood technology can significantly contribute to the EC and Member States' aims of providing ubiquitous broadband connectivity and services and to extending availability beyond the currently commercially attractive urban environments.

As was mentioned, the technology is now technically and commercially proven with the benefits of:

- competing infrastructure solution to increase affordability and uptake levels
- complementary infrastructure for some rural regions and socially disadvantaged areas
- connectivity to conventional power sockets without new investment in wiring
- high and symmetrical bandwidth, especially for small and medium business users
- backed by financially strong utilities

The key to unlocking these can be turned more quickly if the Commission achieves its stated intent and clearly insists on fair and equal treatment of PLC in the regulatory arena in all Member States, particularly with regard to emissions and spectrum usage. Many utilities across Europe have started a tentative roll-out process but will rapidly accelerate this development once the EC's regulatory initiatives are seen to be adopted in the respective countries.

A White Paper has recently been produced by Arthur D Little under commission from the Powerline Utilities Alliance (PUA), an organisation representing European utilities with more than 100 million customers worldwide. This clearly outlines the detail of the case for PLC and I have taken the liberty of appending a copy to this letter.

I would also like to repeat an invitation to you or any of your colleagues in the Commission to an information session in Brussels that the PLC Forum will organise to provide a better insight into the opportunities that PLC offers. I will follow up with more detail on this shortly.

Yours sincerely

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Working Group Chairman
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cc Mark Bogers, Leo Koolen, Andrew Houghton, Thierry Devars, Michael Koch, PLC Forum Board