

Boosting gigabit broadband

Home internet connectivity and access to fast, reliable broadband has never been more important, but only 70 per cent of UK premises have access to gigabit-capable broadband today. The UK Government's aim is to increase this to 85 per cent by the end of 2025. Access to fibre-to-the-premises (FTTP) is currently around 30-40 per cent²⁶.

In 2019, Macquarie Capital made an initial investment in Voneus, a leading specialist in Fixed Wireless Access technology, and has since increased its ownership to a majority shareholding in the

business. With Macquarie's support, Voneus is bringing ultra-fast full-fibre broadband to communities that have historically suffered from slow internet speeds, including Buckland Dinham in Somerset and Dunton in South Bedfordshire, unlocking significant economic and social benefits for the UK.

Macquarie Asset Management has also been investing in the UK's digital infrastructure. In September 2022, Macquarie-managed KCOM announced the next phase of its plan to deliver the UK's fastest and most accessible full-fibre broadband to communities in Lincolnshire and

Hull in East Yorkshire. The new £100 million investment will see KCOM's fibre network expanded to reach around 350,000 properties. KCOM is replacing legacy copper phone lines with fibre and making upgrades across the network to eventually enable download speeds of up to 10GBps and ensure households and businesses in the region have access to the speeds they need, both now and in the future.

Boosting gigabit broadband has also been a major focus for Macquarie in Europe. Macquarie Capital's London-based Infrastructure and Energy Capital team has been using its expertise to support [Onivia](#), Spain's first independent wholesale bitstream operator. As the principal shareholder, the team has been facilitating the business' growth plans to help eliminate the digital infrastructure gap between rural and urban areas of Spain. Macquarie Asset Management is also backing the rollout of ultra-fast broadband in Denmark, Italy and Poland through investments in [TDC](#), [Open Fiber](#) and [Fiberhost](#).

²⁶ UK Government Project Gigabit Delivery Plan – Summer Update 2022.

