SSE Enterprise Telecoms implements Infinera platform to deliver 'dark fibre-like network' across the UK

This latest move demonstrates SSE Enterprise Telecoms' commitment to UK network infrastructure investment; providing limitless scope for high-capacity connectivity across Britain

LONDON, UK – June 26, 2018, 9:00 a.m. BST – SSE Enterprise Telecoms – one of the UK's leading connectivity providers (and part of SSE plc) reveal today the details of its biggest network technology investment to date. SSE Enterprise Telecoms introduces a new technology platform with Infinera, deploying the XTM Series to deliver the low latency, flexibility and improved scalability that today's businesses are seeking in order to fully future-proof their organisations. SSE Enterprise Telecoms will offer a resilient, 'dark fibre-like' network on a scale never seen before in the UK and comes in the wake of the challenge against Dark Fibre Access in July 2017, which left a gap for high-capacity connectivity nationwide.

SSE Enterprise Telecoms chose to partner with Infinera due to its unique combination of layer 1 and 2 packet optical and Ethernet services – serving as a credible alternative to customers laying costly dark fibre cabling. Infinera's impressive synchronisation capabilities allow for flexibility on the network, not currently available at such scale or at an accessible price point for SSE Enterprise Telecoms' customers. The extensive network promises access to multiple services with speeds of up to 100 gigabits per second to each BT exchange. Current networks are only able to offer a fraction of those speeds at a commercially viable cost.

The Dark Fibre hangover

The UK government outlined in its 2017 digital strategy vision the need to 'continue to create conditions that encourage investment in the UK's digital infrastructure'. This partnership announcement shows SSE Enterprise Telecoms' continued efforts to improve connectivity for all UK businesses by creating a credible UK alternative to costly new cable laying projects.

Customers of the SSE Enterprise Telecoms' network will benefit from connectivity to more than 80 commercial data centres, meaning it'll be able to meet them practically anywhere. UK businesses and service providers will have the flexibility and option to scale, supported by a high-capacity network without any upfront cost required to buy or lay new fibre connectivity to each exchange.

Conrad Mallon, Chief Technical Architect, SSE Enterprise Telecoms says: "We're working with Infinera because they have an elegant product set that scales effectively, and a unique approach to layer 1 and 2 connectivity. A network project on this scale makes us one of the few providers that can offer multiples of 100Gbps services between exchanges, commercial data centres and across our

core, at an accessible price point. The network expansion deal is also paving the way for our ambitious roadmap which will see SSE Enterprise Telecoms investing more in network reach over the next five years."

Nick Walden, SVP, EMEA, Infinera says: "The UK market has never been more dynamic, now facing exponential bandwidth growth coupled with a renewed focus on connectivity services from both enterprises and carriers due to the recent DFA activities. Infinera is delighted to partner with SSE Enterprise Telecoms on this significant project to rapidly scale network capacity and service differentiation for its customers with our leading XTM Series packet optical solutions."

About SSE Enterprise Telecoms

SSE Enterprise Telecoms provides class-leading connectivity and data centre services that deliver very high performance, cost efficiency and a competitive edge. The company operates a 13,700km private telecoms network and an estate of 15 data centres that span the UK. With its extensive telecoms and data centre operational expertise it offers commercial security with unrivalled in-house engineering resource.

With a passionate and conscientious team, as well as the backing of the SSE Group, it continues to invest in the future of its customers, staff, services, and infrastructure. For further information, please visit: http://www.ssetelecoms.com/ or the SSE Enterprise Telecoms blog: http://www.ssetelecoms.com/blog/.

About Infinera

Infinera provides Intelligent Transport Networks, enabling carriers, cloud operators, governments and enterprises to scale network bandwidth, accelerate service innovation and automate optical network operations. Infinera's end-to-end packet-optical portfolio is designed for long-haul, subsea, data center interconnect and metro applications. To learn more about Infinera visit www.infinera.com, follow us on Twitter @Infinera and read our latest blog posts at www.infinera.com/blog.

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