

# So what is an OPLAN?

## Open Public Local Access Network

- is a network of truly 'broadband' capacity - i.e. where the bandwidth capacity is dictated by nothing other than physical characteristics of the deployed technologies (neutral)
- dedicated to serving a local geographic community - ranging from a street or business park to an entire town or city
- provides abundant low cost access to connectivity on an 'end-to-end' and symmetrical basis throughout that community
- is a 'public utility' in that it is available for use by any party located within the community it serves: public and private, business and residential
- affords global internet access through competing third-party carriers/service providers
- does not differentiate between 'content creators' and 'content consumers' and their '*bits*'
- provides infrastructure which is open to all and is owned and controlled independently of any service or content which uses it
- is structured, financially and legally, and configured with management and governance measures which serve the 'common good' and assures the primary short and long term 'value and benefit' rests locally with users
- end-user 'access' charges are broadly based on servicing capital and maintenance cost-recovery
- is funded by the private sector - not a backdoor to re-nationalisation or state control

(OPLAN white paper at [www.oplan.org](http://www.oplan.org) )