

# Fiber Optic Valley – An Innovation System for Regional Growth

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Founder & General Manager

Broadband internet access – should public authorities engage in initiatives providing broadband internet access?

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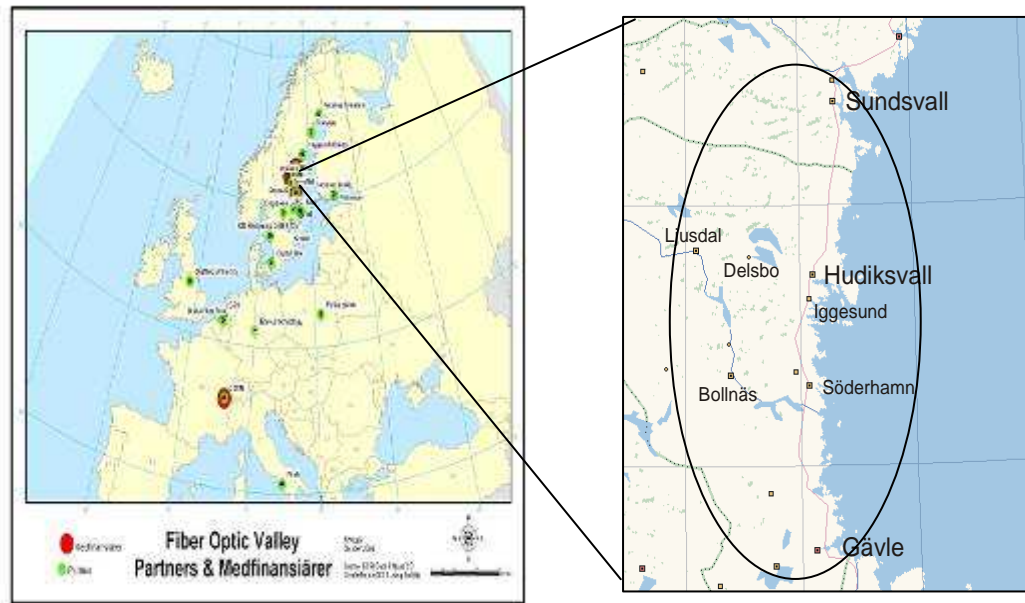


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# fiber**optic**valley

**over 150 actors**



HUDIKSVALLS  
KOMMUN



European Union  
Structural funds



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Fiber Optic Valley

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# Quick Facts

- Fiber Optic Valley is an arena for test and development of products and services based on fiber optics
- In co-operation with 47 co-financiers from business, academia and the public sector, we are creating the center for fiber optics in Europe
- The initiative is mainly financed through EU Objective 2 North and Swedish research grants



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# Fiber Optic Valley Innovation System

- One of eight Swedish Innovation Systems
- In November 2004 Fiber Optic Valley was crowned winner in the VINNVÄXT Programme by VINNOVA, the Swedish authority for innovation
- Granted financing during a ten year period
- The matter at hand: Regional growth



VINNOVA (Swedish Governmental Agency for Innovation Systems) is a State authority that aims to promote growth and prosperity throughout Sweden with focus on innovation and research and development.

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# The Region

- Stretching from Sundsvall in the North to Gävle in the South with Hudiksvall in the center
- The home of 400 000 people
- Two academic institutions and base of operation for research institute Acreo FiberLab, Ericsson Network Technologies, and many more multinational companies
- Well-established fiber optic metro networks in close co-operation throughout the region



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Background

# The Story Begins in 1966

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# From 1966 until Today

- 1966 Ericsson starts manufacturing communication cables in the Municipality of Hudiksvall
- 1998 Fiber to the Home deployed in public housing in the Municipality of Hudiksvall
- 2000 Lobby group Via Futura founded in Hudiksvall
- 2000 Fiber Optics R&D introduced at Mid Sweden University
- 2001 Fiber Optics Technician Training Programme started at the public Center for Development and Learning in Hudiksvall
- 2001 Commercial Metro Network in Hudiksvall
- 2001 Acreo FiberLab Founded in Hudiksvall
- 2002 The Fiber Optic Testbed Initiated
- 2003 The IT Advisors Opened Shop in Hudiksvall
- 2004 World Internet Institute Established in Hudiksvall
- 2004 Fiber Optic Valley Crowned VINNVÄXT Winner
- 2005 VINNOVA Awards Fiber Optic Valley Gender Award
- 2005 The IT Advisors Expands to Cover Gävleborg County
- 2005 GIS Cluster Future Position X Joins Fiber Optic Valley
- 2006 Acreo Fiber Optic Center Is Established

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Our Way

# Regional Growth towards 2015

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# The Strategy

- Create Regional Growth within Three Areas of Focus:
  - Fiber to the User
  - E-services
  - Fiber Optic Industrial Applications
- Instruments are a unique testbed, high tech laboratories, research and education, business development, and marketing

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# From the Toolbox

- Mid Sweden University
- The Testbed-Norrskén
- World Internet Institute
- GIS Applications

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# R&D Projects

- Research and Development Projects are the typical expressions of our work
- The projects are gradually built on each other and have lead to many new job opportunities and new companies
- Total financing since 1999 is over 22 M€ of which 30% is from EU Objective 2 North
- Approximately 11M€ is secured for future funding



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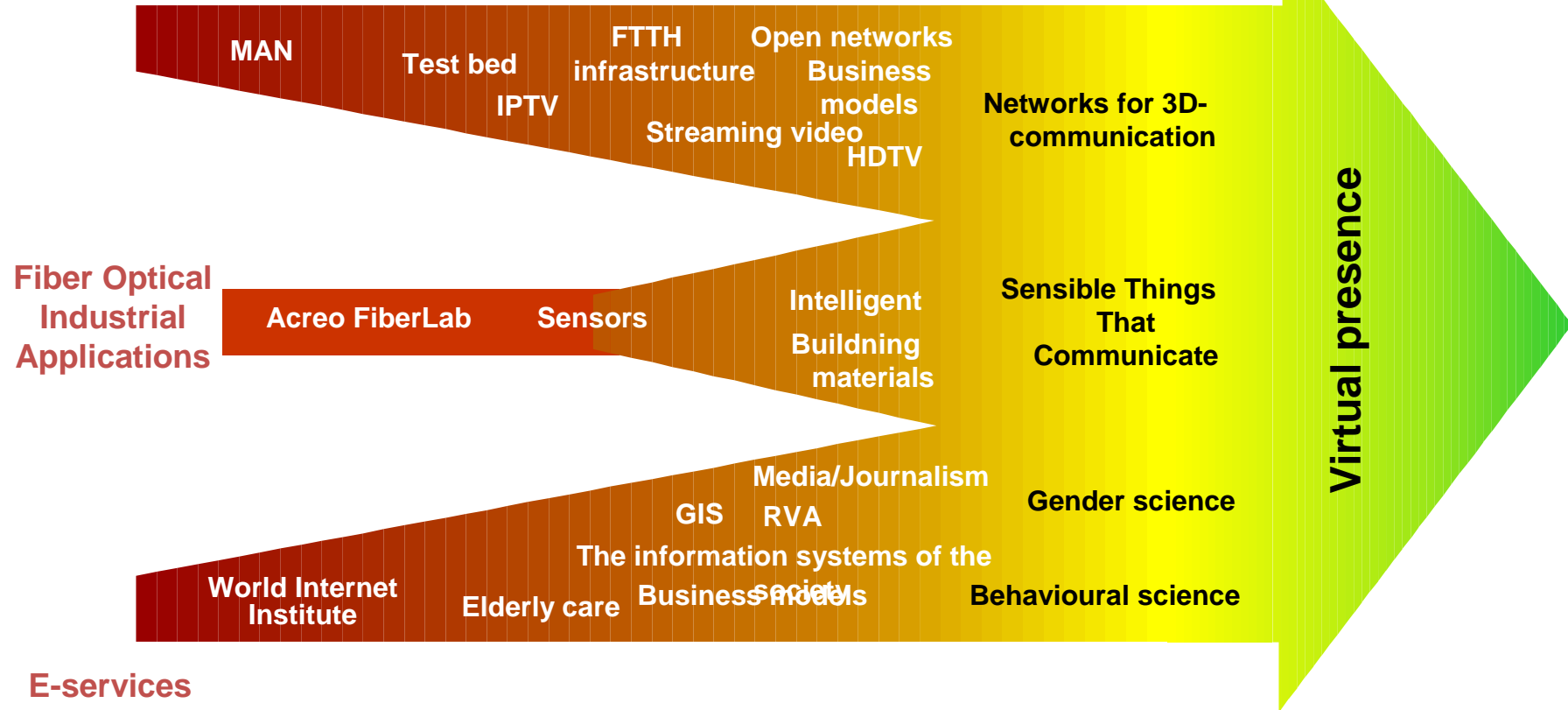
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# The Vision

## Three Focus Areas Become One

Fiber to the user



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2000

2005

2010

2015

Results, Results, Results!

# Two Years down the Road

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# 2006

- 230 job opportunities created in the region within the framework of Fiber Optic Valley
- Over 20 new companies in the region
- 19 new senior scientists in the region (totalling 54) published 69 papers and reports
- 4 concepts commoditized



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# Ahead of Schedule

- Fiber Optic Valley is Currently Delivering ahead of Schedule in Many Areas

## **By 2006**

400 New Job Opportunities  
Over 30 New Companies  
100 Publications  
59 Senior Scientists

## **2008**

500 New Job Opportunities  
Over 6 New Companies  
150 Publications  
30 Senior Scientists

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# Prescence in the Regional Economy

- Co-financiers to Fiber Optic Valley employ approximately 3100 people in the region (3%) with a turn over of 1BN€
- Salaries for employees are 80% higher than the regional mean
- Production per employee is 30% higher than the regional mean

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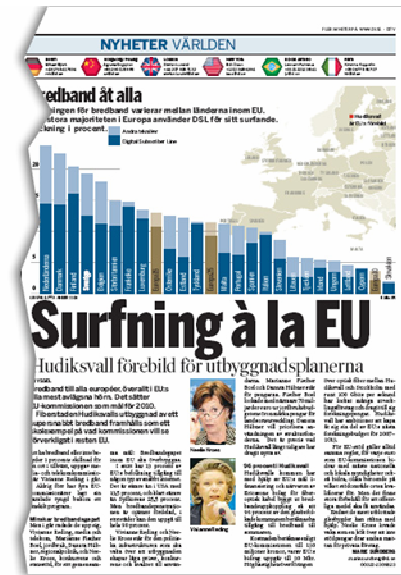


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# Prescence in the EU

- The Municipality of Hudiksvall held as a model for European broadband deployment by commissioner Viviane Reding in early 2006
- Delegates from Fiber Optic Valley last year took part in some 20 major conferences on ICT and broadband in Europe
- Fiber Optic Valley has committed to take an active part in FP7 projects



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# In Short

- Fiber Optic Valley is a broad Swedish initiative for regional growth with a ten year plan
- Using a set of unique tools, we have built a portfolio of R&D projects which are delivering promising results
- 2006 saw 230 new job opportunities in the region and over 20 new companies
- Fiber Optic Valley has committed to take an active part in FP7 projects



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