

World broadband customers top 176 million

20 September 2005

Another 24 million new customers were added to the ranks of broadband subscribers around the world during the first six months of 2005.

More than 176 million homes and businesses were hooked up to high speed as of June 30, with DSL accounting for about two-thirds of the connections, the DSL Forum reported Tuesday.

"Broadband is on track to achieve at least 200 million global subscribers by the end of 2005, with more than 10 countries achieving 20-percent market penetration," said Tim Johnson of Point Topic, which authored the report on behalf of the DSL forum.

The report found the United States has the largest number of broadband subscribers with 38.2 million users and a 16-percent growth rate in DSL connections compared to 10 percent for other broadband services.

That is still just a 13-percent market penetration for broadband in the United States, which is 13th in the world. South Korea leads at 25.5 percent followed by Hong Kong, the Netherlands and Denmark.

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APA citation: World broadband customers top 176 million (2005, September 20) retrieved 20 January 2020 from <https://phys.org/news/2005-09-world-broadband-customers-million.html>

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