

Full Fibre Wacky Races



Richard Tang
CEO, Zen Internet



28 May 2024



IPv4



/16 /16 /16

$2^{16} = 65,536$ addresses



ipv4@zen.co.uk

www.zen.co.uk/ip-leasing/ip-sale-16

1990s

2000s

2010s

2020s

The decade of full fibre
The last big infrastructure
build in our lifetimes

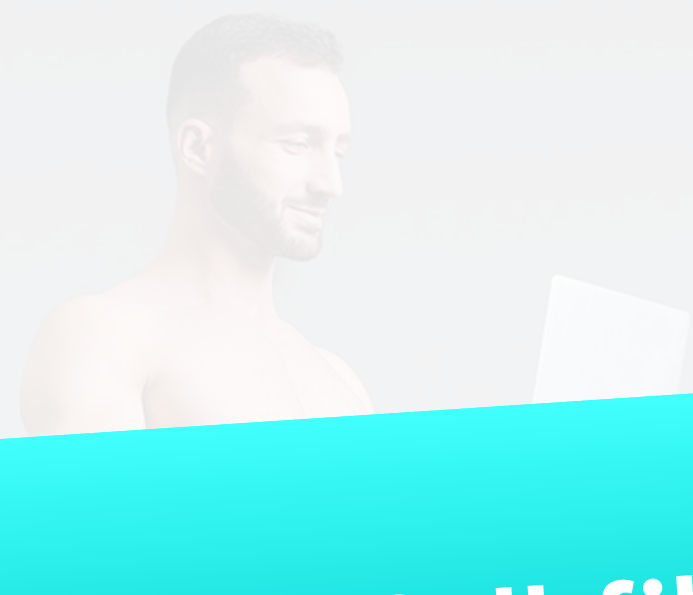
zen

Decade of
Dial-Up

Decade of
ADSL

Decade of
FTTC

Decade of Full
Fibre



Oh no!
I've missed
the boat!!

Full fibre game



The great alt-net gamble

Get big!

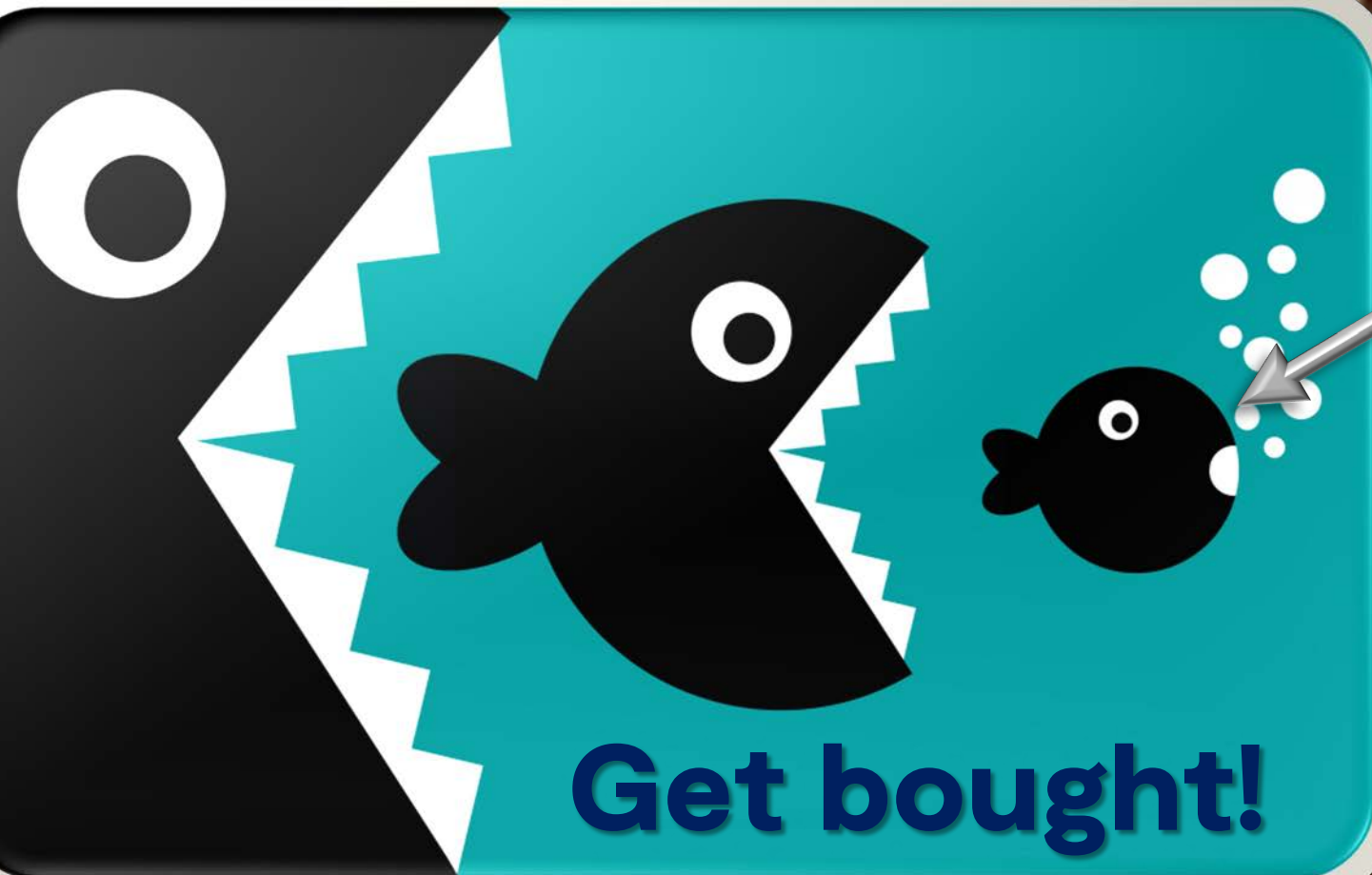


3

Get stranded!



Get bought!



#4 Be a niche rural player forever



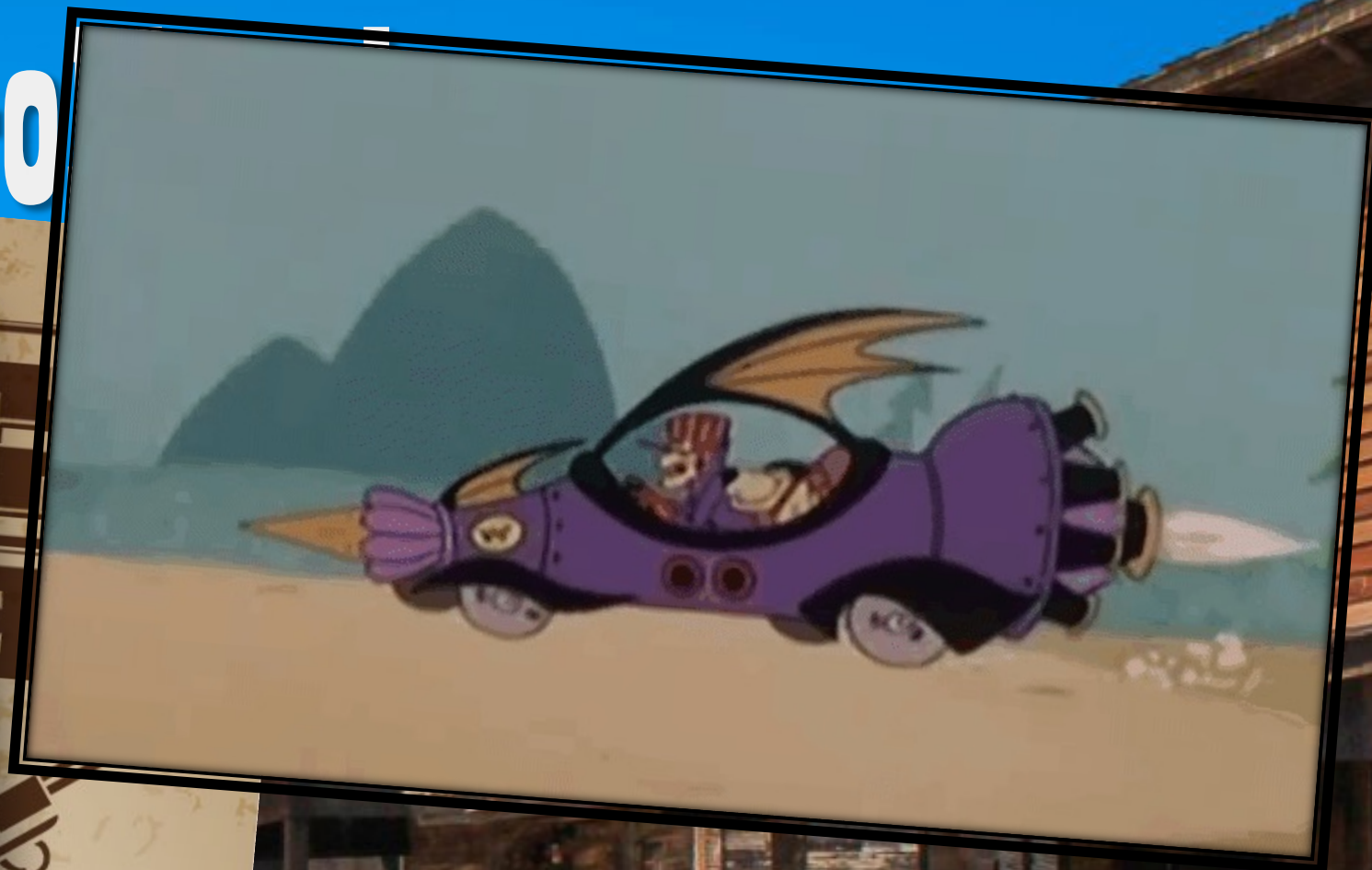
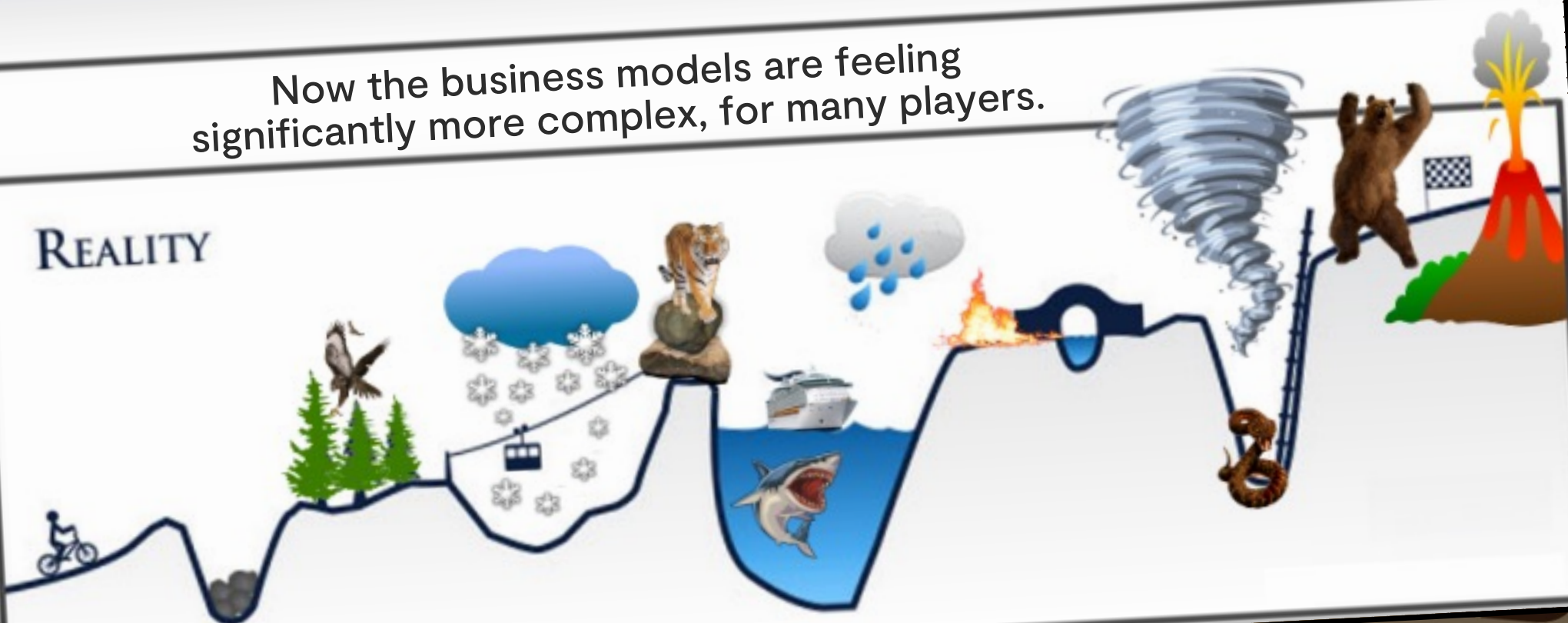
The Full Fibre Go

YOUR PLAN



Now the business models are feeling significantly more complex, for many players.

REALITY



Business model felt more linear

GOAL

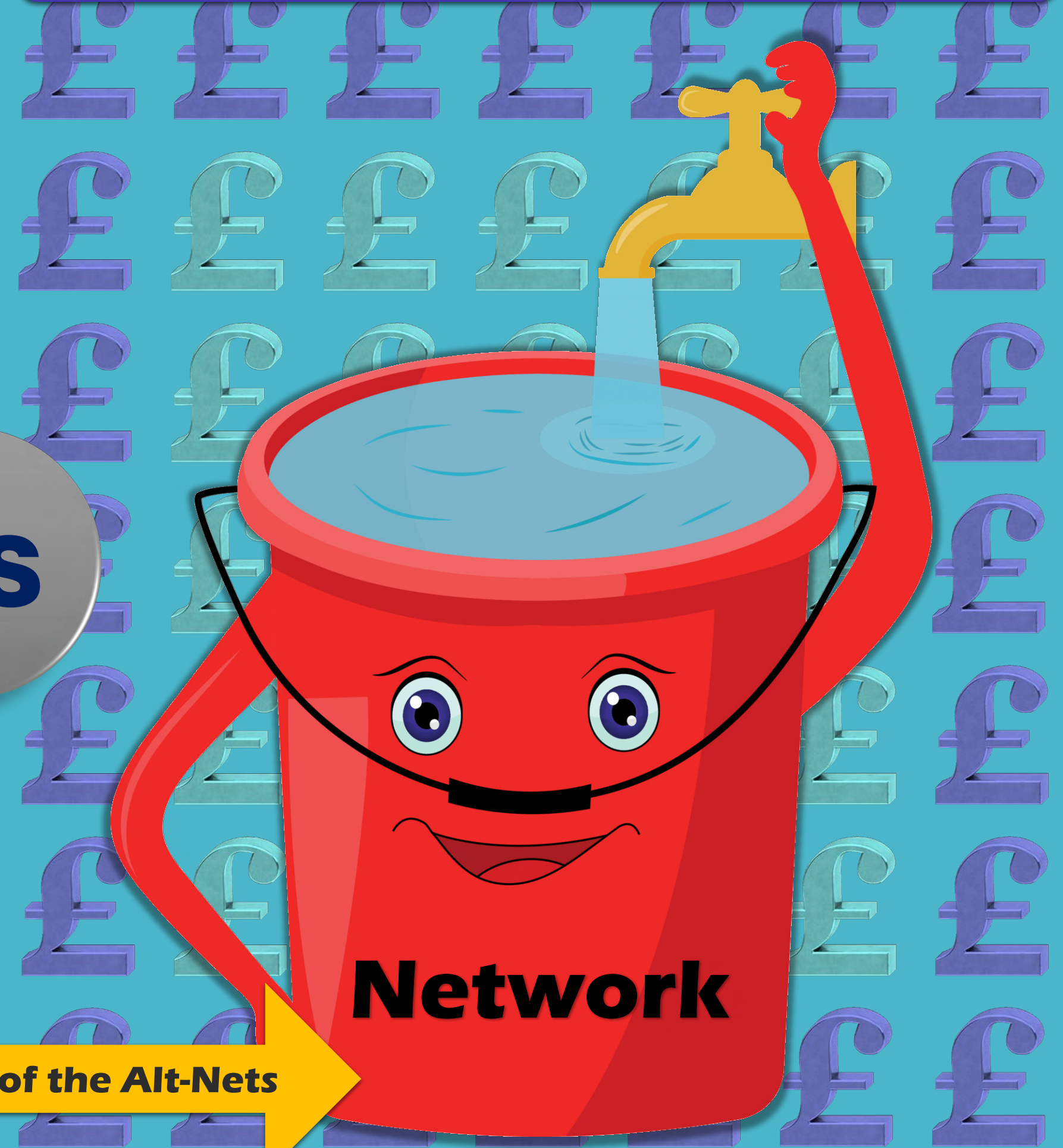


Build



vs

Fill up network with paying customers



Network

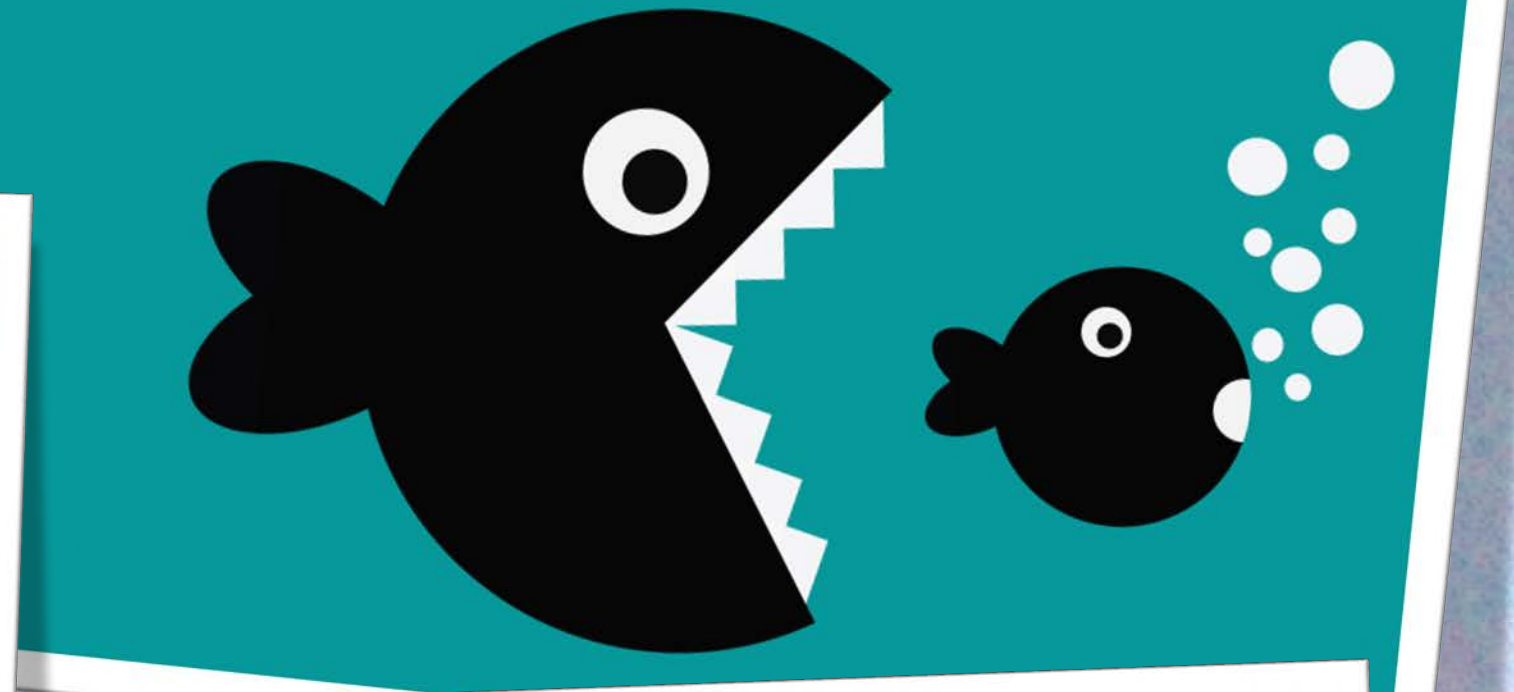
Big trend from a lot of the Alt-Nets

Build



VS

Acquire



Merge



Be acquired



Where will we fit in the big consolidation? And when?

Wholesale

Retail

“As a wholesale-only operator, CityFibre will explore options for the retail ISP following the integration of the network”



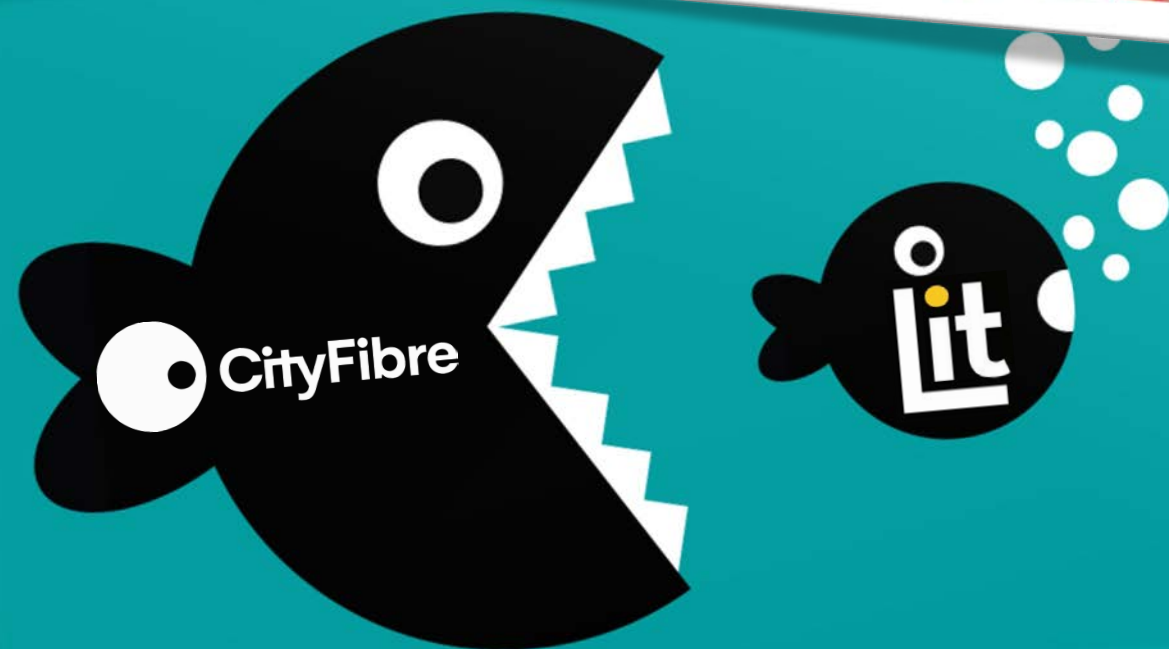
VS

Running a retail ISP isn't.

There's lots involved in running a retail ISP: e.g., add on services like Digital Voice, and regulatory requirements like One Touch Switching.

Many Alt-nets are forced to have a retail ISP, even if they don't want one, since they have no wholesale partners, and so retail is their only route to market.

And then there's the issue of the wholesale Alt-net that acquires another Alt-net with a retail ISP attached.



The retail ISP dilemma

40-55%

Full fibre take-up vs. premises passed



34%

27%

22%

19%

15%

13%

11%

11%

9%

6%

Openreach

Hyperoptic

Fibrus

Gigaclear

Community Fibre

Toob

Zzoomm

CityFibre

Netomnia

Brsk

Source: Eight Advisory

Minimum take-up to make the business model work is typically at least 30% of premises passed.

Lowest break-even figure I've heard is 13% (from Netomnia).

Alt-Net take-up currently varies between 5% and 30%, average 16%.

Openreach take-up 34%.

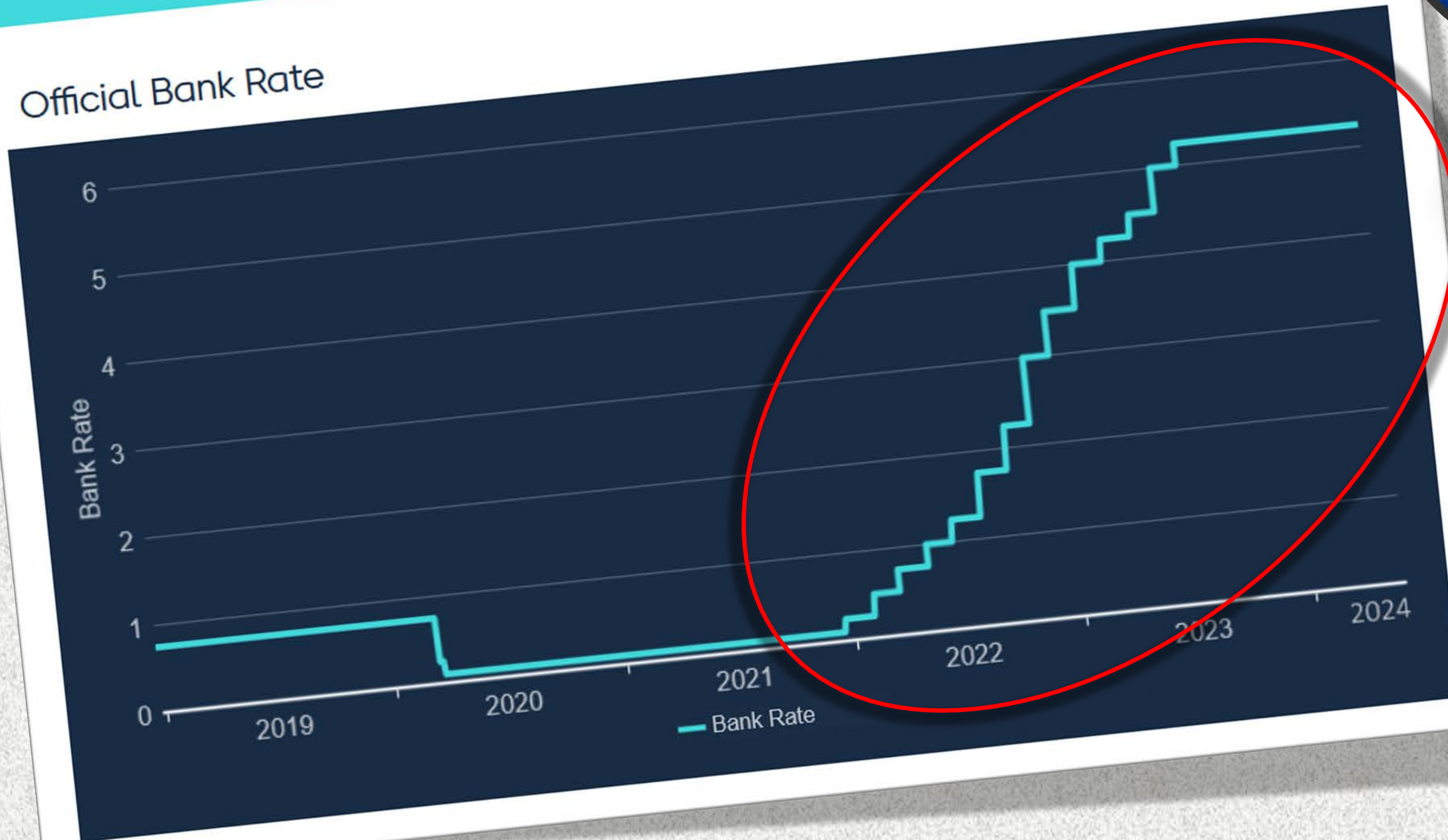


The threat of overbuild

The cost of debt

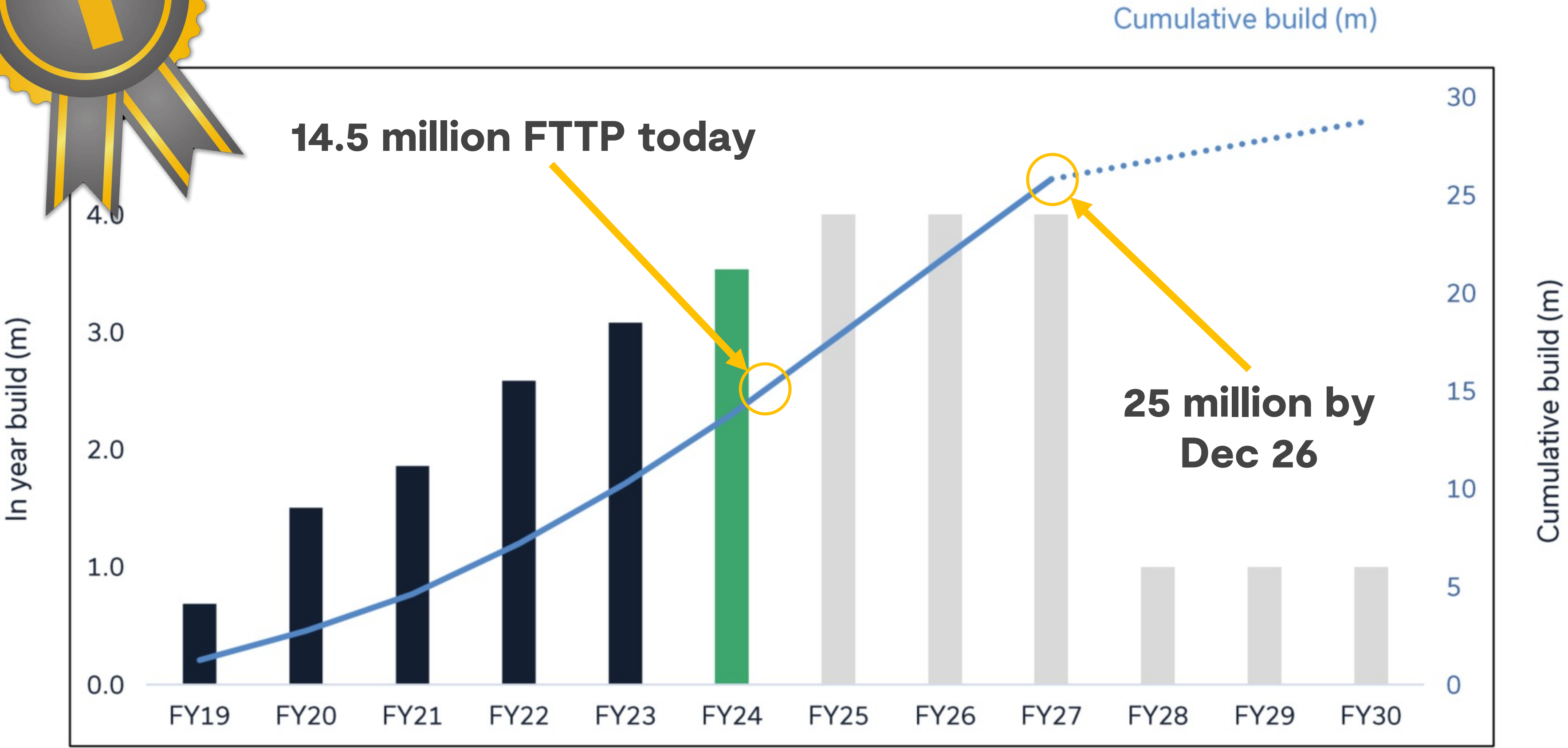
Current official Bank Rate
5.25%

Official Bank Rate



**That makes
things
a lot
trickier!**

openreach



Build

- **VMO2:** Upgrade whole network of 16.2 million DOCSIS 3.1 premises to XGS-PON by 2028 – project Mustang. Done about 3.2 million so far.
- **nexfibre:** Build 5m by end 2026 + option for 2m more. Exceeded 1m last month



nexfibre CEO, Rajiv Datta

Telefóni



“Combined footprint of 23 million homes”

nexfibre will build full fibre to more homes in 2024 than any other Alt-Net

2 million premises in urban areas

1 million premises in semi-urban to semi-rural areas

Are they effectively the same entity?

entities with common parentage and a fundamental partnership – siblings.

nexfibre

Wholesale



Reinforces our position as the leading challenger to Openreach

Feb-24

- Complete 16.2m XGS-PON upgrade
- Wholesale
- Potential Alt-Net consolidation
- nexfibre JV remains separate



nexfibre

- Wholesale was always part of their plan
- Acquisition too
- Strong possibility that the wholesale offering will be joined up with VMO2



VMO2 CEO, Lutz Schuler



RACE UPDATE – 28 MAY 2024

Position *Network builder* *Premises built*



1

Openreach

14.5m



2

VMO2 + nexfibre

4.2m

~3.2m VMO2 + ~1m nexfibre



3

CityFibre

3.6m



4

Hyperoptic

1.4m

5

Community Fibre

1.3m

6

Netomnia

900k

7

Brsk

520k

8

Gigaclear

510k

*Estimates + not all Ready For Service (RFS)

Sources: Openreach, ISP Review + others

The big consolidation

Today there are c. 25 “scale” full fibre players in the UK (>= 100,000 premises passed)

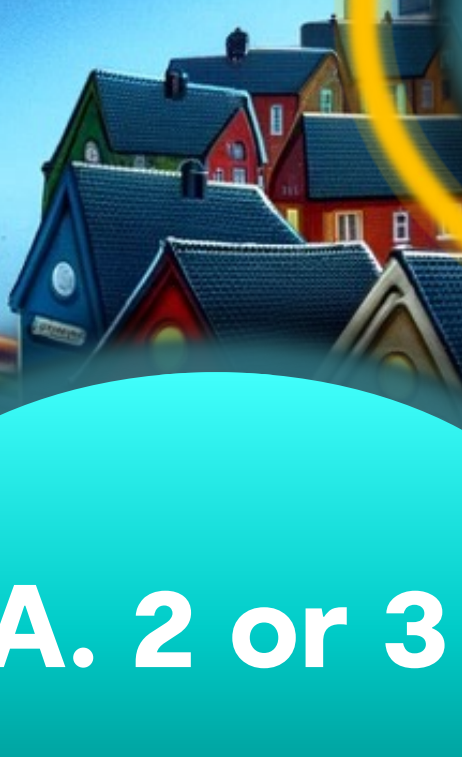
Everyone thinks there will be less, but where will we end up in 2030?

C. 7-10

D. more than 10

B. 4-6

A. 2 or 3



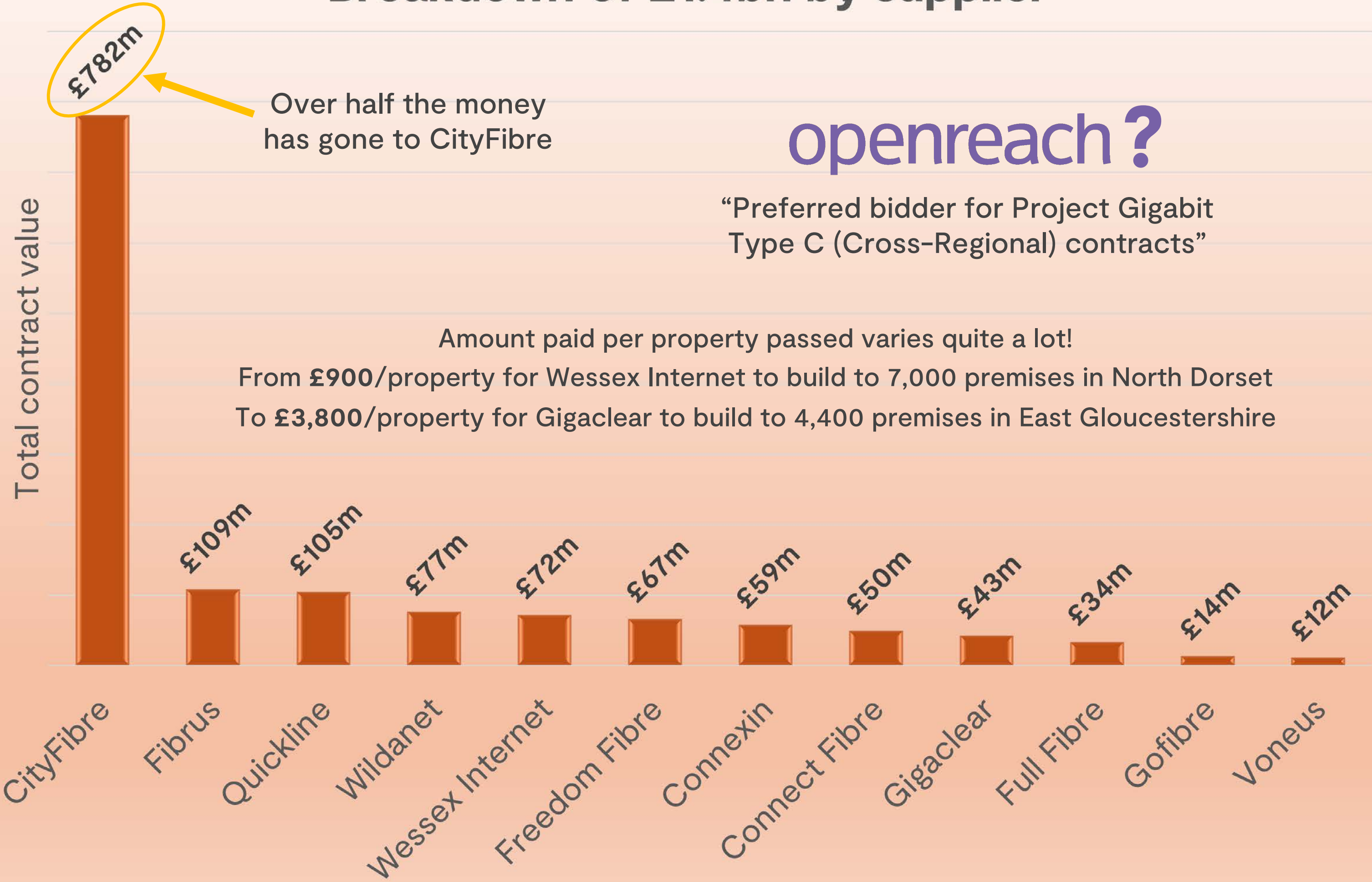
Will niche rural players survive?

Yes

No



Breakdown of £1.4bn by supplier

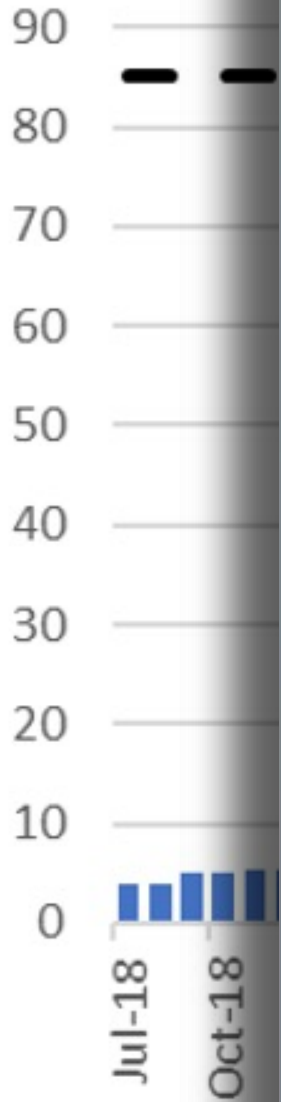


Over half the money has gone to CityFibre

openreach ?

“Preferred bidder for Project Gigabit Type C (Cross-Regional) contracts”

Amount paid per property passed varies quite a lot!
From £900/property for Wessex Internet to build to 7,000 premises in North Dorset
To £3,800/property for Gigaclear to build to 4,400 premises in East Gloucestershire



Project Gigabit

date
ge in the
businesses
v able to
works
re in
s, where
eviously
form
tasks.”

BDUK WASTE OF TAXPAYER'S MONEY

Is

y?



\$500m

BDU
use of

of taxpayer's
money

CEO, NET

FOUFIBRE

**Are LLMs showing early signs of true intelligence?
Or are they just dumb algorithms that happen to be
good at predicting the next word?**

**Early signs of
true intelligence!**

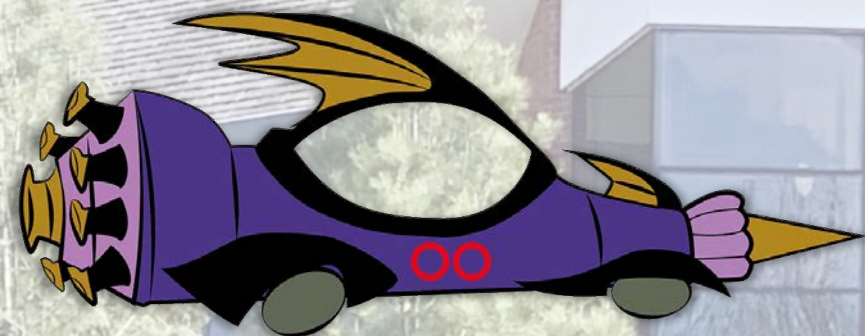
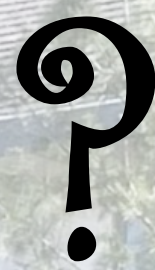
**Dumb algorithms
that are good at
predicting the
next word.**

GPT-4

becomes super-intelligent



With change comes opportunity



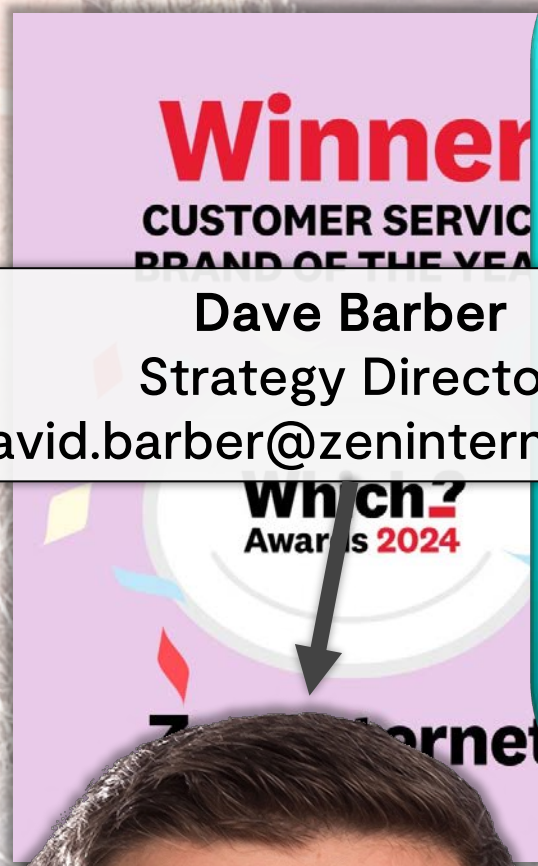
We currently have two infrastructure partners

openreach

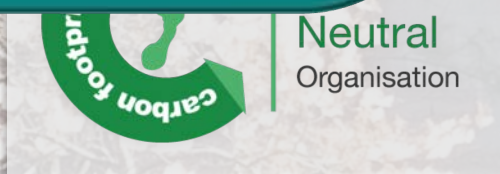
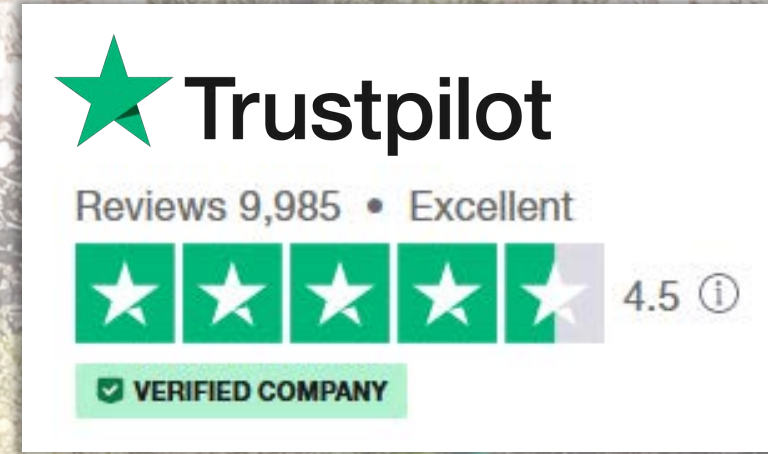
Powered by
CityFibre

Actively exploring the possibility of partnering with others

Dave Barber
Strategy Director
david.barber@zeninternet.co.uk



Every year for 20 years!
2004-2023





THANK YOU!

