

Press Release

Richard Hooper appointed as BSG Chairman



12 November 2010

For immediate release

Richard Hooper CBE has been appointed as the new non-executive Chairman of the Broadband Stakeholder Group, taking over from Kip Meek.

Richard Hooper has had a long career in the converging worlds of media and communications. He has worked in both broadcasting and telecoms and was Chairman of the Radio Authority and Deputy Chairman of Ofcom 2002-2005. Most recently he led the Independent Review of the Postal Services Sector.

Commenting on the appointment, Antony Walker, the BSG's CEO said "I'm absolutely delighted that Richard has agreed to take on this role. He brings an exceptional combination of technical, commercial, regulatory, and policy expertise and is a perfect fit for the BSG. I look forward to working with him closely at this dynamic time in the evolution of the UK's broadband market".

Commenting on his appointment, Richard Hooper said "I am honoured to be asked to chair the BSG succeeding my former Ofcom colleague, Kip Meek. Having devoted my career to communications and media, the challenge of ensuring that the UK's broadband infrastructure is fit for purpose for the 21st century is undeniably exciting."

Reflecting on the task ahead Hooper said, "Huge progress has been made over the last few years, but there are major challenges ahead in ensuring we deliver the best possible infrastructure, the widest possible availability and a strong and healthy competitive market. The BSG has a unique role in addressing these challenges and I look forward to playing my part."

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Notes to Editors

About Richard Hooper CBE

Richard Hooper began his career as a radio and tv producer in the BBC, a founder of the Open University. At BT he ran the world's first commercial videotex service, Prestel, the precursor to the Internet. He ran the pan-European satellite television channel Super Channel owned by the ITV companies. He was Chairman of the Radio Authority 2002-2003, deputy chairman of Ofcom 2002 – 2005, Chairman of Informa plc 2005-2007.

He currently is Chairman of the Independent Review of the Postal Services Sector, senior independent director on the boards of Yell Group plc and Vocalink Holdings Ltd, and a lead mentor for Bird & Co Executive & Boardroom Mentoring. He is married to the Australian writer and historian, Meredith Hooper, and lives in North London.

About Kip Meek

Kip Meek chaired the BSG from April 2007 to September 2010. He stepped down from the role when he was appointed to chair YouView the IPTV joint venture between the BBC, ITV, BT, Channel 4, TalkTalk, Arqiva and Five.

About the Broadband Stakeholder Group

The BSG was established as a cross-sector government advisory group in 2001 to help the UK lead the G7 in broadband penetration and connectivity. It provides a neutral forum for collaboration between organisations across the converging broadband value-chain with the ultimate aim of helping to create a strong and competitive UK knowledge economy

It aims to be a critical friend of government and the regulator, and comprises companies from the telecoms and technology sectors through to content providers and rights holders. It also has direct representation from government departments and Ofcom. It is funded primarily through industry sponsorship with some additional government funding.

The BSG focuses on strategic, medium- to long-term challenges, which have latterly included the regulation of next generation access networks; predicting future bandwidth requirements; modelling deployment costs for fixed, wireless and satellite technologies; understanding the economic and social value of broadband; identifying best practice models for public sector intervention; ensuring transparency of traffic management processes, digital inclusion and content regulation.

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