



Zyxel helps B4RN connect rural primary UK schools with 10Gbps fiber capable broadband

Broadband 4 the Rural North (B4RN) is a community-owned, rural, gigabit Fiber To The Home project. Founded and run by a dedicated local team of volunteers, B4RN provides consumers the opportunity to work, live and play faster and more efficiently than most places in the world. And, with its professionally designed fiber optic broadband network, B4RN is one of only a handful of ISPs offering gigabit broadband to rural communities.

B4RN and Zyxel's partnership provided 21 primary schools in rural UK with broadband speeds faster than some of the world's largest colleges and universities - at no cost to the schools. The 21 schools, located across north Lancashire, south Cumbria and Yorkshire Dales, generally have fewer than 100 students and less than 10 staff members.

B4RN chose one of Zyxel's newest WiFi 6 flagship XGS-PON IAD—AX7501 to support its hyper fast 10G/s capable broadband service. With the donation of these products, Zyxel ensures students in rural areas have the same or better quality of connections than students in urban areas in the UK.

B4RN[®]
Broadband for the Rural North Ltd

B4RN is a non-profit community benefit society run by a dedicated local team with the support of landowners and volunteers that brings FTTP broadband to every property in their coverage area.

“With Zyxel’s router, we can now increase each schools’ broadband service from 1 gigabit per second to 10 and help them compete with some of the best-connected educational institutions.”

Michael Lee
CEO of B4RN

“Whilst St Patrick’s Church of England School has previously benefited from a broadband service delivered via fiber directly to the school, its speed has limited our use of IT. So, we were delighted to be the first school in Cumbria to be connected to B4RN’s new hyper fast broadband service” – Suzanne Edmondson, Headteacher at St Patrick’s Church of England in Endmoor.

In a school in Dent, pupils at one point only had a 20-minute time slot each day to use the single internet-connect computer. With the upgrade, all students now have individual LearnPads, giving them access to modern curriculum and cloud-based remote learning.

The partnership with Zyxel is a big benefit to teachers too. They now have access to educational tools previously unavailable to them, such as the ability to join live-streamed educational events. At the same time, school administrators have upgraded back office administration functions by taking advantage of cloud-based software and digital tools.

“Before being connected with B4RN’s network, these rural schools did not have access to the same level of wireless connectivity as their urban counterparts. Nobody knows what the future of education will hold, but with this router, we can now increase each schools’ broadband service from 1 gigabit per second to 10 and help them compete with some of the best-connected educational institutions.” said Michael Lee, CEO of B4RN.

“We are always looking for ways to give back and be of service to our community, especially when fostering equality of education for future generations. Reliable, high speed internet is critical to connecting students with the tools and resources they need to prepare for their future. We are proud to partner with B4RN to help make a positive difference.” said Karsten Gewecke, Sr. VP, Head of Zyxel EMEA Regional BU.

Main challenges

Many small primary schools in the rural UK area did not have access to high-speed internet. As a result, students could not adopt modern curriculum or take advantage of virtual education tools.

Zyxel solutions

- Zyxels’ AX7501 supports the latest WiFi 6 (11ax) wireless standard and comes with one 10GbE LAN, four GbE LAN, two VoIP ports, one USB 3.0 port and 4x4 dual-band WiFi 6 (11ax) WLAN and has an SFP+ cage to support both XGS-PON and 10G active fiber.

Core benefits

- 10G fiber broadband speeds faster than some of the world’s largest colleges and universities.
- Gives all students access to modern curriculum and cloud-based remote learning.
- Allows teachers to use modern educational tools, such as joining live-streamed educational events.
- Enhances back office administration functions by taking advantage of cloud-based software and digital tools.

Featured products



AX7501

Dual-Band Wireless AX6000 XGS-PON IAD with SFP+

- Integrated internet services via 10G fiber
- WiFi 6 (11ax) 4x4+4x4 for superior performance and coverage
- SFP+ supports both passive and active fiber
- Zyxel MPro Mesh® Solutions (compliant with EasyMesh standards)
- Zyxel Execution Environment (ZyEE) for Linux Containers
- Remote management via TR-069 and OMCI
- Zyxel-developed OPAL for superior flexibility and faster time-to-market

For more product information, visit us on the web at <https://service-provider.zyxel.com>

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