

About INCA

The Independent Networks Co-operative Association (INCA), was established in 2010 as a co-operative trade association for next generation broadband services. INCA brings together the most innovative thinkers in the independent alternative network sector, creating new digital infrastructure in the UK and Ireland.

What are alternative networks?

Over the years, there has been a growing number of businesses building new digital networks to compete with mainstream broadband providers. Providing pure fibre networks (Fibre to the Premise, or FTTP), fixed wireless networks (FWA), hybrid networks and satellite broadband services, they operate in urban and rural areas without a copper phone network. Instead of relying on state aid, alternative networks (Altnets) use commercial investment to build new networks and establish close relationships with the communities they serve.

Why does INCA exist?

INCA was founded to bring together alternative network operators to support, plan, build and operate sustainable, independent and interconnected networks to advance the economic and social development of the communities they serve and permit the provision of applications and services through open competition, innovation and diversity. INCA exists to fuel a competitive landscape in order to provide the UK with the best possible digital infrastructure for the future.

What makes INCA unique?

As a co-operative, working collaboratively to achieve its goals is fundamental to how INCA operates. By bringing alternative network (Altnet) providers together, a network of support has been created to develop next generation broadband projects.

INCA is powered by its members, who all share a united vision to build Gigabit Britain. Membership is open to any organisation that supports the development of independent digital networks and infrastructure, with a board of management that is made up of five elected members from the Association.

How many members does INCA have?

INCA has more than 80 members, including major players like Sky, Vodafone and TalkTalk, plus leading altnets including Hyperoptic, CityFibre, WightFibre and B4RN. There are five tiers of membership that each comes with its own benefits for organisations. As a cooperative association, INCA is based on three principles of one member one vote, autonomy and independence and equitable member contribution to funds.

INCA members include network owners, builders and operators, equipment vendors, other suppliers and organisations from the public sector that are developing or promoting independent networks.

What does the future hold for INCA?

As INCA's membership grows and the broadband landscape evolves, INCA will continue to utilize member resources to advance connectivity throughout Britain, particularly with a focus on new developments in full fibre and the role of 5G in providing high-speed wireless communications.