Overview of Fiber Connect 2026 PoC Program:
Light Years Ahead

As fiber broadband reaches more homes, the focus shifts from simply delivering connectivity to enabling experiences that redefine how communities live, work, and grow. This year's Proof of Concept (PoC) explores how interoperable devices, applications, and services come together to power the connected community.

For the 2026 PoC program, the Fiber Broadband Association (FBA) has partnered with The Broadband Forum (BBF) to center this year's demonstrations on any of the BBF specifications, interoperability, and associated certifications, or Open Broadband software that are within the focus of this year's PoC.

Examples of the types of things that could be part of the Proof of Concepts…

- BBF.247 certification program provides multi-vendor interoperability so that network operators have the ability to choose from differing network equipment (OLTs) and the fiber termination device inside the users building (ONUs) as each expands the range and reach of its network.
- USP builds a network of controllers and agents to allow applications to manipulate service elements. This allows service providers, consumer electronics manufacturers and end-users to securely manage connected devices, carry out upgrades, for example, for critical security updates, and onboard new devices. Customer support is also improved by remote monitoring and troubleshooting of connected devices, services and home network links.
- The TR-398 test plan provides testing coverage for RF performance, coverage, capacity & bandwidth, and stability / robustness. A minimum set of test cases ensures all BBF.398 Carrier-Grade Wi-Fi devices meet a minimum performance bar needed by operators rolling out carrier grade services to their subscribers.
- OB-UDPST, this open-source IP capacity test, based on TR-471, is a must-have for operators offering multi-gigabit connections, as it optimized for these higher speed environments Compared to older TCP methods, it provides additional quality metrics, such as latency, loss, and reliability.
- Using standards such as TR-459/TR-477/TR-370/TR-386 to demonstrate control and user plane separation or CUPS enabling disaggregated OLTs and virtual BNG. This is useful for wholesale, open access, and more efficient and scalable network resource deployment.
- Using standards, such as WT-436/TR-486, to implement closed loop automation to collect telemetry data from one or multiple domains, including the access and customer premises networks, and then automatically analyzing that data and proactively implementing changes or replacements within the infrastructure, or support call agents handling customer issues.

If a company would like to demonstrate a Proof of Concept that does not relate to the Broadband Forum specifications listed above, please get in touch with Lucy Green (lgreen@fiberbroadband.org) and Nadir Noon (nnoon@fiberbroadband.org) to discuss.

For PoC Demonstrations that are showcasing the BBF specifications, each PoC must leverage and showcase the appropriate specification to ensure the whole fiber user experience. PoCs can

demonstrate one or more services and applications that support the conference theme of "Light Years Ahead" and could include innovative IoT, AI, security and other Smart Community options.

At least one PoC participant must be a member of either FBA or BBF. PoC projects can involve up to three companies and should showcase how the demonstration helps "accelerate our fiber future."

PoC submissions will be reviewed by the FBA's Technical and Conference Committees and the BBF Technical Committee Chair prior to approval for inclusion in the Fiber Connect 2026 PoC Showcase. FBA and BBF reserve the right to ask clarifying questions or request adjustments to a PoC submission as needed prior to acceptance.

Costs:

There is a $12,500.00 fee per PoC for participation. These fees will cover the PoC demo pods (includes pod structure, up to (2) monitors, shelf, storage cabinet, and optional mini-rack with power), floor space, power, onsite interview packaged into a 3-5 minute demo video that will be shared with presenting organization, inclusion in event schedule (both website, and mobile app), and signage during the event. Connectivity is available for an additional fee.

Selected projects will be showcased at the 2026 Fiber Connect event in a dedicated area of the Expo Hall. Fiber Connect 2026 will take place at the Gaylord Palms Resort and Conference Center, May 17 – 20, 2026. The Expo Hall will be open May 18 and May 19.

If the submitted PoC is not selected, there will be no fee. The PoCs can be as short or as long as required by the participant FBA and/or BBF members. Participating companies must staff the PoCs during all Expo Hall Hours.

PoCs will be evaluated during Fiber Connect 2026 by leading industry analysts. Awards will be presented in the following categories: "Most Innovative PoC", "Best Community Impact" and "Game Changer".

Starting a PoC Project

To start a PoC project, please do the following:

- First, identify the PoC specification(s) you will demonstrate and disclose the participating companies.
- Communicate with Nadir Noon (nnoon@fiberbroadband.org) and Ken Pyle (kpyle@broadband-forum.com) to get resources allocated to the project
- Use the submission template to capture in a first draft the key aspects of your PoC project for approval.

Documenting and Promoting Your PoC

Each PoC is allocated a unique identifier by staff when the PoC is approved. This identifier will be used in the pre-conference programming information and as an identifier for the physical PoC demonstration during Fiber Connect 2026.

Promoting the PoCs

PoCs will be listed on the Fiber Connect 2026 website and promoted through FBA's email and social media programs. FBA will provide images suitable for promotion via social media for the participant companies.

Please do not promote the PoC until accepted; once accepted, we will share graphics and information to aid you in the promotion of the PoC.

Timeline

March 20, 2026	Submissions Due
March 30, 2026	Proof of Concept Demos Announced
April 6, 2026	Final Materials Due
May 16 – May 17, 2026	PoC Onsite Set up
May 18 – 19, 2026	PoC Demonstrations and Video Interviews