South African Telecom Main Fiber Optic Cable

Overview

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Key Takeaways

South Africa's main fiber optic infrastructure is dominated by Maziv (Vumatel + Dark Fibre Africa), Openserve, and other major operators, supported by local manufacturers like YOA Cable, CBi Telecom, and M-TEC.Major Fiber Network Operators

Maziv (Vumatel + Dark Fibre Africa) is the largest fiber infrastructure operator in South Africa, covering over 2 million homes through Vumatel and approximately 14,000 km of DFA metro and enterprise fiber . The network operates on an open-access model, allowing multiple ISPs to provide services over the same infrastructure, which promotes competition and scalability . Openserve, Telkom's network division, has the widest geographic reach, including secondary towns and rural areas, with 1.454 million homes passed . Openserve focuses on both urban and less densely populated regions, making it a key player in nationwide connectivity. Other notable operators include Herotel, which targets rural and peri-urban markets, Metrofibre, Frogfoot, and Zoom Fibre, which primarily serves KwaZulu-Natal . These networks collectively support South Africa's growing FTTH market, which reached 2.47 million subscriptions by the end of 2024, reflecting a 65% year-on-year growth .

Fiber Optic Cable Manufacturers

South Africa has several leading fiber optic cable manufacturers:

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• YOA Cable: Established in 2016, YOA Cable produces a wide range of optical cables, including drop cables, micro blown cables, duct cables, armoured cables, and access building cables. They offer both single-mode and multimode solutions for local and African markets, with innovations like Fast Fusion Technology for easier installation .

• CBi Telecom: One of Africa's largest copper and fiber optic cable manufacturers, providing customized solutions for telecom and structured cabling applications .

• M-TEC: Founded in 1911, M-TEC manufactures aerial self-support cables, duct cables, direct buried cables, indoor cables, and micro duct cables, serving South Africa and neighboring countries .

• Dartcom Fibre Solutions: Produces drop cables, ADSS cables, and micro cables with an annual production capacity exceeding 12,000 km, licensed under OFS Fitel, LLC .

• AM Hengtong Africa Telecoms (AMHT): A subsidiary of Aberdare Cables, specializing in underground, aerial, and FTTH optical fiber cables, with a focus on local capacity building and technology transfer .

Network and Technology Highlights

• Open-access model: Most major networks allow multiple ISPs to lease capacity, enabling competitive broadband services .

• Metro and long-haul coverage: DFA and Maziv provide backbone infrastructure for enterprise and public sector connectivity .

• FTTH growth: Urban fiber-to-the-home penetration exceeds 20% in major metros, with Vumatel alone reporting over 864,000 connected homes as of March 2025 .

• Technological innovation: Manufacturers like YOA Cable and Dartcom implement advanced installation technologies and high-capacity fiber solutions to support growing bandwidth demands .

Summary

South Africa's fiber optic landscape is characterized by large-scale open-access networks, rapid FTTH adoption, and a strong local manufacturing base. Maziv (Vumatel + DFA) and Openserve lead in coverage and capacity, while manufacturers like YOA Cable, CBi Telecom, and M-TEC provide the essential fiber infrastructure. This combination ensures scalable, high-speed connectivity for both urban and rural areas, supporting business, residential, and enterprise broadband needs.

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