

Article Overview

Dubai is connected to regional and international fiber networks, including the Fibre in the Gulf (FIG) subsea cable linking the UAE to Qatar and other Gulf countries, while its local fiber infrastructure is extensive and rapidly expanding.

International and Regional Fiber Links

Dubai is part of the Fibre in the Gulf (FIG) subsea cable project, a high-capacity 720-terabit-per-second network connecting the UAE with Qatar, Bahrain, Iraq, Kuwait, Oman, and Saudi Arabia . This project is a collaboration between Dubai-based du and Qatari telco Ooredoo Group, reflecting growing economic and technological integration in the Gulf region . The FIG cable enhances data connectivity, providing a robust backbone for internet traffic, cloud services, and regional digital infrastructure, and positions Dubai as a key node in global networks .

Local Fiber Infrastructure

Within Dubai, the Dubai Electricity and Water Authority (DEWA) has expanded its fiber optic network to nearly 4,000 kilometers of ducts, supporting communications, data transfer, and smart grid operations . This infrastructure underpins high-speed broadband services, including du Fibre, which offers speeds from 1 Gbps to 10 Gbps with symmetrical upload and download rates . The network is designed to support emerging technologies, including 5G, smart city applications, and cloud computing .

Fiber Optic Suppliers and Deployment

Dubai has a competitive market for fiber optic cables, with suppliers such as D-Connect, Al Yah Satellite Communications, Gulf Optical, FiberLink UAE, and Emirates Fiber Solutions providing single-mode, multimode, and FTTH cables . Prices range from AED 3-15 per meter depending on cable type, with bulk discounts available . These suppliers ensure compliance with local telecom standards and provide installation and maintenance support, facilitating both commercial and residential deployments .

Integration with 5G

The rollout of 5G in Dubai has accelerated fiber deployment, with high-density, bend-insensitive fiber cables being installed to support small cells and multi-tenant units . Fiber is essential for 5G because it delivers the high-speed, low-latency backhaul required for wireless networks, ensuring reliable connectivity across the city .

Summary

Fiber optic cable connecting Dubai

Dubai's fiber optic ecosystem combines international subsea connectivity through projects like FIG with a robust local network managed by DEWA and commercial providers. This infrastructure supports high-speed internet, 5G deployment, and smart city initiatives, making Dubai a central hub for regional and global digital communications .

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