The 'how-to' guide for accelerating fiber deployments

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#1: Introduction – the big picture

As the endless thirst for data drives a continuous push for greater network capacity, fiber still remains the principle transmission technology in use today, underpinning all core, fixed-line and mobile backhaul communications infrastructure. With a global optical networking market estimated to be growing at 17.7% CAGR¹ and forecasted to be worth \$23 billion by 2027, fiber is here to stay for the foreseeable future. But planning and upgrading fiber networks quickly and efficiently can be a major challenge for service providers.

Fiber deployment pitfalls

Service providers face numerous hurdles when rolling out new fiber or upgrade projects. Such projects often involve long-running and complex processes, requiring end-to-end process management and information exchange across multiple systems, organizational groups and external partners. Yet, for many service providers, these systems and stakeholders still operate in separate "silos", which suffer from poor communication and little or no automation. The result is a lack of scalability and centralization, hampering access to common information by project stakeholders, and severely impeding progress. With a global optical networking market estimated to be growing at 17.7% CAGR¹ and forecasted to be worth



"Unnecessary project delays and missed milestones are major fiber rollout pain points."

EMEA tier-1 service provider

¹Research and markets, global fiber optics market 2022-2027



Project complexity and 'siloed' systems and teams can hamper progress

Business impact

The impact on the business can be significant. It can include impaired quality, project delays, higher project costs and increased site visits. Furthermore, with the lack of information and traceability comes lost accountability, meaning project tasks can become stuck unnecessarily as ownership is disputed. And with high-volume projects, targets are easily missed due to lack of process scalability.

Accelerating fiber deployment

In this series, we will take a look at each of the stages in planning, deploying and upgrading highspeed fiber networks. We will discuss the typical challenges service providers face at each stage, new approaches and technical solutions on offer, and how they solve problems and add value.

Faster Fiber Series topics:

- 1. Program planning
- 2. Project orchestration
- 3. High-level fiber planning and cost optimization
- 4. Fiber outside plant detailed design and construction
- 5. Inventory and GIS
- 6. Moving from planning to fulfillment



Fiber Deployment Management and Execution

Summary

As the pressure builds for service providers to upgrade and deploy more and more fiber connections at the lowest cost per home passed, manual project management methods are no longer enough. And to stay on time and within budget, what used to be done by a team now needs to be done by only a few – and at a much faster rate. Look out for the next issues of this series to find out how.



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