

Nigerian Mobile Fiber Optic Cable Construction



Overview

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Key Takeaways

Nigeria is constructing a 90,000-kilometre national fibre optic network under Project Bridge to expand broadband access and foster competition among internet providers. Overview of Project Bridge

Nigeria's Project Bridge, officially called Building Resilient Digital Infrastructure for Growth, is a \$2 billion initiative to deploy 90,000 km of fibre optic cables nationwide, complementing existing infrastructure to create a 125,000 km open-access fibre backbone . The project is designed to break the near-monopoly of major mobile network operators (MNOs) like MTN and Airtel, enabling smaller internet service providers (ISPs) to access infrastructure at competitive rates . It will link all 774 Local Government Area (LGA) headquarters via Points of Presence (PoPs) and establish seven regional backbone rings across Nigeria's six geopolitical zones plus Lagos .

Implementation and Funding



Project Bridge is structured as a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) under a public-private partnership (PPP) model . The Nigerian government will hold a minority stake (25–49%), while private sector companies and development finance institutions (DFIs) such as the World Bank and African Development Bank provide the remaining funding . The \$2 billion budget is split between sovereign loans and private equity, ensuring both financial sustainability and operational independence . The SPV will be managed as a limited liability company with a professional board and management team experienced in telecommunications .

Local Manufacturing and Supply Chain

To reduce reliance on imported cables and improve deployment efficiency, Nigeria has established local fibre optic cable production through Coleman Technical Industries in Sagamu, Ogun State, Africa's largest fibre factory . This local manufacturing is expected to lower costs, shorten delivery cycles, and create jobs, while supporting national digital infrastructure independence .

Expected Impact

Project Bridge aims to increase internet penetration to over 70%, improve broadband speed and reliability, and provide access to millions of households, businesses, schools, and hospitals, particularly in underserved regions . The initiative is projected to create up to 20,000 direct jobs and over 150,000 indirect jobs, while contributing up to 1.5% GDP growth per capita over four years . Additionally, the government plans to train 5,000 youths through the Digital Bridge Institute to support the digital economy .

Strategic Significance

By fostering infrastructure sharing and competition, Project Bridge is expected to reduce costs for ISPs, accelerate digital inclusion, and position Nigeria as a leader in Africa's broadband landscape, with the third-largest fibre backbone on the continent after Egypt and South Africa . The project also aligns with broader economic reforms and digital transformation goals under President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's administration .

Article Content

Project Bridge | The Federal Ministry of

This initiative will complete Nigeria's intended target of 120,000 km of fibre-optic cable roll-out in Nigeria as

Project BRIDGE Secures \$100 Million from EBRD and €22 Million EU

Project BRIDGE is designed to deploy 90,000 kilometres of fibre optic cable infrastructure across the country,

Nigeria's massive \$2bn fibre rollout set for 2026

Fibre rollout is scheduled to start in Q1 2026, covering 90,000 kilometres over five years, with route surveys and

Nigeria Takes Giant Leap In Connectivity With \$2 Billion Fibre-Optic ...

The project aims at extending the nation's fibre-optic backbone by 90,000 km, positioning Nigeria to boast as Africa's

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(PDF) A critical review of fiber-optics technology development and ...

PDF | On Nov 1, 2017, Ayibatonye D. Ogbe and others published A critical review of fiber-optics technology development and

Nigeria unveils 90,000 km fibre optic network to boost nationwide ...

Nigeria unveils 90,000 km fibre optic network to boost nationwide connectivity The project will boost internet

Nigerian Fiber Optic Network: Structure, Limitations, Solutions

This paper therefore reviews the state of fiber optics internet broadband network in Nigeria, challenges/limitation associated with

FG sets up joint committee to tackle fiber optic cable damage across ...

The Federal Ministry of Works (FMoW) and the Federal Ministry of Communications, Innovation, and Digital Economy

State of Fiber Optic Networks for Internet Broadband Penetration in ...

This paper reviews the present state of fiber optics Internet broadband network penetration in Nigeria looking at the

Awaiting Nigeria's fibre revolution in 2025

Earlier in 2024, a telecoms infrastructure company, IHS Nigeria, said it had completed the rollout of more than 10,000

Exploring the Legal Framework for Laying Fibre Optic Cable

This increased deployment of fibre optic technology within the telecommunications sphere in Nigeria underscores the necessity of

Fiber Optic Deployment in Nigeria: Progress, Setbacks, and ...

As Nigeria prepares for 5G deployment, the country will need to upgrade its existing fiber optic infrastructure to

IHS deploys 10,000 kilometres of fibre cables to boost broadband in ...

Telecom infrastructure company, IHS Nigeria, said it has completed the rollout of more than 10,000 kilometers of fiber

Nigeria's 90,000km fibre project gets \$700m, Q4 deadline

Nigeria needs 125,000 kilometres of fibre-optic cable to achieve its national coverage goal, and the project aims to

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Nigeria Fiber Optic Cable Market (2025-2031)

The Nigeria Fiber Optic Cable Market is experiencing significant growth driven by the increasing demand for high-speed internet

Nigerian Government to Kick Off 90,000km Fiber-optic Cable Project ...

The Nigerian Federal Government is embarking on a transformative digital infrastructure project aimed at deploying

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