

North Korea's Optical Cable Pipeline Project

Article Overview

North Korea has been gradually developing a fiber optic network connecting major cities internally and linking to Russia and China, though details remain limited due to the country's secrecy.

Overview of North Korea's Fiber Optic Network

North Korea's fiber optic infrastructure is a key component of its efforts to modernize communications and improve internal connectivity, despite the country's historically outdated copper wire systems and strict information control. Fiber optic cables transmit data as light signals, enabling faster and more reliable communication, which could support economic growth and modernization within the country.

Historical Development

The first fiber optic cable in North Korea connected Pyongyang with Hamhung on the Sea of Japan coast in September 1995. Subsequent expansions included connections from Pyongyang to Sinuiju on the Chinese border in 1998, and by 2000, additional cables linked Pyongyang to Nampo, Hamhung to Rajin-Songpa, and Rajin-Songpa to Hunchun, China. These early deployments laid the foundation for both domestic and cross-border connectivity.

Cross-Border Connections

North Korea maintains international fiber links primarily through Russia and China. A notable connection from Russia was established in October 2017 via TransTeleCom, crossing the border over the Korea-Russia Friendship Bridge near Tumangang Station. This cable likely runs underground along railway tracks and major roads, connecting to Pyongyang via the east coast. Connections to China also exist, with servers reportedly located near the border, though exact locations remain uncertain.

Internal Network Layout

The internal network appears to follow major transportation routes, including railways and highways, with fiber optic cables often laid alongside these corridors. A connection between Pyongyang and Odaejin has been identified, though mountainous terrain suggests the route is not direct. All government ministries are reportedly connected to the domestic intranet, Kwangmyeong, via fiber optics, ensuring controlled internal communication.

Strategic and Socio-Economic Implications

North Korea's Optical Cable Pipeline Project

Investing in fiber optics could enhance North Korea's internal communications, improve internet access for select users, and potentially facilitate limited international connectivity. Improved infrastructure may support economic opportunities, foreign investment, and modernization, though the full extent of these benefits is constrained by the regime's strict control over information. In summary, North Korea's Optical Cable Pipeline Project reflects a gradual but strategic effort to modernize its communications infrastructure, linking key cities internally and establishing controlled international connections with Russia and China, while maintaining tight oversight over information flow.

The project for Google's new "Sol" cable, with 16 fiber optic cable pairs and the potential to provide redundancy to the

The long-planned and much derided Trans-Korea gas pipeline project is back on the agenda, buoyed by hopes North

Historical Data and Forecast of North Korea Fibre Optic Cable Market Revenues & Volume By Glass Fiber for the Period 2021-2031

However, one slide in particular caught my eye because it showed a fiber optic cable running across the country This

Could going directly through the North Pole finally deliver the Arctic Circle an underwater

Meta's ambitious 50,000 km undersea cable project, Waterworth, aims to connect five continents with cutting-edge

LS Cable & System secured the submarine communication network project on a turnkey

The Japan-Korea submarine cable project will help Microsoft and AWS better handle

The New Cross Pacific Cable System is a new generation high capacity fibre-optic submarine cable system across the Pacific

Since their origination, subsea cables projects in the Arctic have developed along shipping routes in both the North

Explore North Korea's efforts to develop fiber optic infrastructure, its implications for connectivity, and the challenges of

North Korea s Optical Cable Pipeline Project

A key oil pipeline at the North Korea-China border recently appeared to undergo repairs or possibly an expansion, NK

ARTERIA Networks Corporation (Headquarter: Minato-ku, Tokyo, Representative Director, President: Tatsuya Abe;

6Wresearch actively monitors the North Korea Fibre Optic Cables Market and publishes its comprehensive annual report,

The workers that North Korea has sent to their projects in the Middle East generate earnings for the North Korean state. Dis- ruption

9.2 North Korea Optical Fiber Cables Market Opportunity Assessment, By Mode of Transmission, 2021 & 2031F 9.3 North Korea

Web: <https://bssoda.pl>

