

There are no more orders for fiber optic cables

Article Overview

Fiber optic cable orders are currently unavailable due to unprecedented demand from AI data centers and structural supply constraints in the industry.

Causes of the Shortage

The fiber optic market is experiencing a structural supply crunch, not a temporary fluctuation. The surge in demand is largely driven by AI and hyperscale data centers, which require vastly more fiber than traditional deployments. For example, GPU-based AI racks can consume 36 to 16 times more fiber than conventional CPU-based racks, and a single hyperscale AI data center may require tens of thousands of fiber kilometers for internal connections alone . Additionally, raw material constraints are a major factor. High-end fibers like G657A2 require specialized optical preforms, which account for about 70% of fiber cost and are technically challenging to produce. Expanding preform production takes 1.5 to 2 years, and all major manufacturers are currently operating at full capacity . In the U.S., compliance with Buy America rules further limits available supply, as only a few vendors can produce compliant glass .

Supply Chain and Lead Times

Lead times for fiber have extended dramatically. Ribbon fiber for data centers is estimated at 60+ weeks, while loose tube fiber for outdoor and FTTH deployments is projected into Q3 2026 . The shortage is compounded by skilled labor constraints, transportation delays, and logistical challenges, making it difficult for providers to fulfill new orders promptly .

Market Implications

The shortage affects both public broadband programs (like BEAD and RDOF) and private AI infrastructure projects. Vendors are prioritizing high-margin AI-related fiber, which has cannibalized production capacity for standard fibers, driving up prices and limiting availability for traditional deployments .

Strategies for Procurement

To navigate this environment, companies are advised to:

- o Diversify suppliers to reduce dependency on a limited number of manufacturers .
- o Plan orders well in advance and consider modular or pre-connectorized solutions to reduce installation time .
- o Monitor technological innovations, such as high-density and multicore fibers, which may offer more capacity per cable .



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o Engage in strategic partnerships with vendors to secure allocations for critical projects . In summary, the unavailability of fiber optic cable orders is a result of record-breaking demand from AI data centers, limited production capacity, raw material shortages, and extended lead times, creating a market where supply cannot currently meet demand.

According to a June 4 report by CCTV Finance, leading domestic fiber-optic and cable companies including Hengtong Optic-Electric

Fiber optics technology uses light pulses to transmit data, resulting in quicker, more reliable data transfers between

Fiber optic troubleshooting is an essential skill for network administrators, technicians, and engineers responsible for

Also, there is no danger of sparks or electrical shock. o Freedom from EMI -- Fiber optics are immune to

In summary, quality optical fiber and fiber optic cable have no known expiration date. Fiber scalability and longevity are intensely

The global internet relies on 800,000 miles of undersea cables that are constantly breaking.

FBA's supply chain working group last summer produced a report which indicated lead times for fiber optic cables hit

Fiber optic vendors are employing a mix of manufacturing expansion, technological innovation in high-density and

The cables begin as a cluster of strands of tiny threads of glass fibers. Lasers propel data down the threads at nearly

Our comprehensive guide to types of fiber optic cables. Learn all about the differences between single mode and multimode cables,

Never look into a fiber, cable, or connector unless you know for sure that there is no laser light in the fiber. For extensive work with

With customers demanding faster and more reliable connections for their increased needs when working and schooling from home,



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Broadband Deployment & Supply Chain Terms Fiber to the Home (FTTH) - The deployment of fiber-optic cables directly to

Learn how fiber optics works and why fiber is a common alternative to copper cabling. Also explore the advantages

Fiber optic cables aren't just powering your streaming and gaming--they're the invisible infrastructure underpinning

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