Fiber-Optic Technology is Booming in 2017 and Beyond

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Revised version -February 6, 2017

Catch The Wave

You can't always feel the wave of the future, but it's happening. We are all becoming surrounded by tiny fiber-optic cables that are the masterminds behind the latest internet technology around the world, a fiber-optic internet.

Fiber-optic 101

Fiber-optic cables are the minuscule, magical strands behind the scenes of your daily internet adventures. Take one single lock of hair and hold it between your fingertips to get an idea of the size of the fibers, or lack of size in this case. The technology allows you to download movies at lightning speeds, seamlessly stream music, and connect with Grandma over Skype without any glitches or interference, from your phone or computer.

Fiber-optic projects large and small

Fiber-optic cable technology is everywhere and is even bringing together sworn frenemies like Facebook and Google. The tech giants are creating a massive fiber-optic project. Dubbed *The Pacific Light Cable Network*, it will connect Los Angeles and Hong Kong by 2018, helping to increase high-speed connectivity for citizens across the globe.

Small scale projects are also on the rise, expanding the technology into more rural areas that traditionally lag in the latest trends. For example, Brainerd, MN, a large city in central Minnesota, is slated to start a $50 million fiber optic expansion project.

Fiber-optic economic implications

As fiber-optic cables continues to be on the fast track to replace copper wire, businesses that make reliable fiber-optic cables are finding their products in huge demand these days, creating massive company growth and profits. One manufacturing company was pleased to announce its stock had risen 42%, from $14 to $20.

Companies that build and distribute components like lasers and modules for fiber-optics technology are reporting large increase in earnings, even up to 56% in one year.

Another business that provides equipment and software services for fiber-optic uses, reported an increase of about 4.7% over a year.

Speedy Transmission Rates Now

As the creation of new fiber-optic networks increase, so will transmission speeds. One of the biggest benefits of fiber-optic technology is that it can provide greater speeds over much longer distances than traditional copper cable technologies.

Currently, a fiber-optic network can reach speeds averaging between 500mbps and 1gbps, excellent and dependable speeds that we are all becoming accustomed too. Slow internet rates are soon to become a distant distraction of the past.

Get Ready For Faster Speeds Later

Average rates could climb even higher. Researchers in Munich, Germany have been hard at work trying to create delivery techniques that could climb to 1 Terabit, a rate that would leave even a zippy road runner in the dust, and a feat that could feasibly happen not too far in the future.

Expansion Rates To Rise

But first, fiber-optic technology needs to be available virtually everywhere so that everyone can enjoy the benefits of a high-speed internet. Currently, the top three states in the United States that have the highest fiber-cable coverage are Rhode Island, Oregon, and New Jersey, but the U.S. is far behind many countries in the fiber-optic expansion arena and is working hard to keep up. Companies in every state will be diligent in the next few years to make headway in the process of laying fiber-optic cable.

As fiber-optic technology expansion explodes across the United States as well as the entire world, the trend will continue to be a huge boon for companies that manufacture fiber-optic cables, through 2017 and beyond. Rapid and reliable internet will soon reach all the far corners of the entire planet, and allow us to work and communicate online at time-saving rates.

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