

Niger Fiber Optic Communication Major



Overview

In September 2012, state-owned fixed-line incumbent Sonitel began laying its 300km fiber-optic cable between Dosso and Konni.

Key Takeaways

Niger has completed the provisional acceptance of over 1,000 km of fiber-optic infrastructure under the Trans-Sahara Optical Fibre Backbone Project, significantly enhancing national and regional connectivity. Project Overview

Niger's major fiber optic initiative, the Trans-Sahara Optical Fibre Backbone Project (TSB), is a strategic effort to improve broadband connectivity and digital integration across the country and the wider region. The project is financed by the African Development Bank Group, with a total estimated cost of €43 million, combining funding from the African Development Fund and national contributions (African Development Bank) .

Key Components

- Fibre-Optic Network: The project includes a 1,031-km national and cross-border fiber-optic network covering five critical routes:
- Arlit-Assamaka to the Algerian border
- Diffa to N'Guigmi and the Chad border
- Zinder to Magaria and the Nigerian border
- Niamey to Dosso, Gaya, and the Benin border

- Niamey to Makalondi and the Burkina Faso border
 - Urban Local Loop: An 88-km urban loop connects major administrative sites to the future national data center, ensuring high-speed access within urban areas.
 - Tier III National Data Centre: The project also includes the installation of a Tier III data center, which will serve as a hub for national digital services and support secure, high-capacity data storage and processing.
- Strategic Impact

The fiber optic backbone is expected to:

- Enhance regional integration by connecting Niger to neighboring countries, facilitating cross-border digital services.
- Reduce connectivity costs and improve access to high-speed internet for public and private sectors.
- Support digital inclusion and accelerate the digitization of public services, e-commerce, and mobile finance.
- Create local employment and stimulate economic opportunities through improved ICT infrastructure. Minister of Communication and New Information Technologies, Adjil Ali Salatou, emphasized that the project aligns with President Abdourahamane Tiani's vision of a national high-speed telecommunications network open to the sub-region, advancing Niger into the information and knowledge age (African Development Bank)

Conclusion

The TSB project represents a decisive step for Niger in bridging the digital divide, strengthening national broadband infrastructure, and positioning the country as a key player in regional digital connectivity. Once fully operational, it will provide a robust platform for economic growth, technological development, and enhanced access to digital services across Niger and its neighboring countries.

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