Fiber optic cable for China Telecom and China Unicom



Overview

By selecting the right fiber optic equipment, you can ensure efficient and reliable network performance, ultimately supporting China Unicom''s mission to deliver high-quality telecommunications services.

Key Takeaways

Interconnection between China Telecom and China Unicom is typically achieved through shared backbone networks, CN2 routes, and enterprise-grade peering agreements rather than direct physical cable splicing.

Overview of Fiber Infrastructure

Both China Telecom and China Unicom operate extensive fiber-optic networks across China, including terrestrial and submarine cables. China Telecom's network includes ChinaNet and CN2, a next-generation MPLS-optimized backbone with multiple international submarine cable connections and over 450 on-net data centers in Mainland China, supporting high-capacity, low-latency traffic between cities and overseas locations. China Unicom similarly maintains a robust fiber network with terrestrial and submarine links, offering cross-border connectivity and OTT services for enterprises.

CN2 and Inter-Carrier ConnectivityThe CN2 network is a key platform for interconnection. CN2 GIA (Global Internet Access) provides premium, low-latency connections and is backed by the top Chinese carriers, including China Telecom and China Unicom. Enterprises or service providers seeking to connect networks between these carriers typically leverage CN2 or other Tier-1 backbone interconnection points.

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These connections are managed through Points of Presence (POPs) and Provider Edge (PE) routers, allowing traffic to traverse both networks without requiring direct physical fiber splicing.

Submarine and Terrestrial Cable Integration

For international or cross-regional connectivity, both carriers participate in submarine cable systems such as the New Cross Pacific (NCP) Cable, which links the US and Asia and is jointly operated by China Telecom, China Unicom, and other consortium members. These shared cable systems provide a framework for inter-carrier traffic exchange and redundancy.

Practical Steps for Enterprise or Network-

Level Interconnection

Engage Carrier Account Teams: Enterprises or network operators must coordinate with both carriers to establish interconnection agreements, specifying bandwidth, SLAs, and routing preferences. Select Interconnection Points: Use shared POPs or data centers where both carriers have presence. These are typically in major cities or strategic network hubs.

Configure Network Routing: Implement MPLS or IP peering configurations to allow traffic to flow between the two networks. CN2 GIA or other backbone services can be used to optimize latency and reliability. Compliance and Authorization: Ensure all interconnection activities comply with China's MIIT regulations and carrier-specific policies.

Physical fiber splicing between carriers is generally restricted to authorized personnel and approved facilities. Testing and Monitoring: After configuration, monitor traffic performance, latency, and redundancy using carrier-provided tools or third-party network monitoring solutions.

Key Considerations

Direct physical fiber splicing between China Telecom and China Unicom is rarely done outside of carrier-approved facilities. Most interconnections rely on shared infrastructure, peering, and MPLS routing. Using CN2 GIA or enterprise interconnection services ensures low latency, high reliability, and compliance with regulatory requirements.

Both carriers support cross-border and OTT connectivity, which can be leveraged for international enterprise networks. By leveraging shared backbone networks, CN2 routes, and authorized interconnection points, organizations can effectively connect fiber-optic networks between China Telecom and China Unicom while maintaining performance, reliability, and regulatory compliance.

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Article Content

What You Need to Know About China Unicom and Its Fiber Optic

By selecting the right fiber optic equipment, you can ensure efficient and reliable network performance, ultimately supporting China Unicom''s mission to deliver high-quality telecommunications services.

Inside China''s fiber future

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Trusted by industry giants like China Telecom, China Mobile, and China Unicom, we have built long-term, stable partnerships with major operators, earning a solid

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Global Fiber Optic Cable Market Analysis | OPELINK

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Fiber Map of the World 2026

China''s backbone consists of major domestic operators such as China Telecom and China Unicom, while India''s National Optical Fiber Network (NOFN) aims to provide rural broadband by extending

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China Unicom is a leading Chinese telecommunications provider specializing in fiber optic solutions, 5G networks, and high-speed internet. As a state-owned enterprise, it drives digital infrastructure growth,

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According to the four sources, China Mobile, China Telecom and China Unicom are planning one of the world''s most advanced and far-reaching subsea cable networks in a bid to rival

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Exclusive-China plans $500 million subsea internet cable to ...

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