Connecting fiber optic cables for China Mobile China Unicom and China Telecom



Overview

Inside China's fiber future In an interview with RCR Wireless News, Kantipudi Pradeepthi, telecom analyst at GlobalData, described fiber as the foundation.

Key Takeaways

China Mobile, China Unicom, and China Telecom are jointly developing the EMA subsea fiber-optic cable network to connect Asia, the Middle East, and Europe. Overview of the EMA Subsea Cable ProjectChina's three major state-owned telecom operators—China Mobile, China Unicom, and China Telecom—are collaborating on a $500 million undersea fiber-optic cable network called EMA (Europe-Middle East-Asia). This project aims to establish one of the world's most advanced and far-reaching subsea cable systems, providing high-capacity internet connectivity across multiple continents.

Route and Technical Details

The EM

A cable will start in Hong Kong, connect to China's Hainan Island, and extend to Singapore, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, and France. The system is designed to rival the US-backed SeaMeWe-6 cable, following a roughly parallel route. The cable will be manufactured and laid by HMN Technologies, a Chinese firm previously associated with Huawei, and will receive subsidies from the Chinese government.



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Strategic and Operational Aspects

Ownership and Partnerships: Chinese telecom firms are expected to own more than half of the network, while foreign partners are being considered for the remaining share. Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs): The consortium has signed MoUs with Orange, PTCL, Telecom Egypt, and Zain Saudi Arabia, with ongoing discussions with Singtel and other potential partners. Timeline: Contracts are expected to be finalized by the end of the year, with the cable projected to be operational by 2025.

Geopolitical and Technological Significance

The EM

A project reflects China's effort to secure independent international internet infrastructure amid rising tensions with the US. The initiative follows China Mobile and China Telecom's withdrawal from the SeaMeWe-6 consortium after the US awarded the construction contract to SubCom instead of a Chinese firm. By deploying EMA, China aims to ensure sovereign control over critical subsea fiber-optic connectivity and enhance its global digital influence.

Summary

Through the EMA subsea cable, China Mobile, China Unicom, and China Telecom are jointly connecting Asia, the Middle East, and Europe with a high-capacity fiber-optic network. The project combines strategic investment, advanced technology, and international partnerships to create a robust alternative to US-backed subsea cable systems, with operations expected to commence by 2025.

Article Content

Inside China''s fiber future

In an interview with RCR Wireless News, Kantipudi Pradeepthi, telecom analyst at GlobalData, described fiber as the foundation supporting

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Fiber to the Room (FTTR) Progress Update: Chinese Operators

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China Telecom was caught flat-footed by its rival, China Unicom, and is now aggressively trying to catch up before Unicom siphons away additional customers with offers of free FTTR

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The cable ties to China''s Digital Silk Road | Lowy Institute

Reuters news agency has also reported that another three of China''s big technology corporations – China Telecom, China Unicom and China Mobile – are investing US$500 million to

China Direct CN2 Route

This route is backed by the top three Chinese carriers including China Telecom, China Unicom and China Mobile, ensuring high capacity, superior

China-US Subsea Sparring and the Global Internet

Examine the competitive commercial stakes between Chinese (China Mobile, China Unicom, China Telecom, and Huawei/HMN Tech) and U.S. (Amazon, Google, Meta) industry players

China to Connect Europe, Middle East and Asia via $500 Million

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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China''s Top Telecoms Face Sabotage in Expansion into Schools

China Telecom has seen similar problems, having fiber optic cables cut at Nanjing Industrial Technical Institute. And China Unicom may have seen the worst of the sabotage, with fiber optic lines and other

The Wo+ Broad Band from China Unicom

Wo+ Broad Band from China Unicom packages fiber access with mobile and TV services for Chinese households, aiming at stable speeds around 1000 Mbps in eligible cities. This segment

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G.654.E fiber_Baiduwiki

In September 2021, China Telecom completed the construction of the country''s first all-G.654.E terrestrial backbone optical cable, achieving 400G/s ultra-long-haul transmission in a live network.

FTTR (Fiber to the Room): How It Changes Home Networking Standards

Mass Deployment: Major operators such as China Telecom, China Mobile, and China Unicom have launched large-scale FTTR packages since 2022. Bundled Offers: ISPs market FTTR

Shanghai Huijue Network Communication Equipment Co., Ltd.

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China Telecom Market Size & Share Growth Analysis| 2035

The China telecom market was valued at USD 491.00 Billion in 2025. It is expected to grow at a CAGR of 3.10% to reach USD 666.30 Billion by 2035.

Dark Fiber Market Trends, Share and Forecast, 2026-2033

China leads the Asia Pacific dark fiber market, driven by large-scale infrastructure investments by state-owned enterprises such as China Telecom, China Mobile, and China Unicom.

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