

Optical fiber cables are in short supply



Article Overview

The U.S. is facing a significant optical fiber cable shortage due to soaring demand from AI data centers, government broadband programs, and limited domestic production capacity.

Causes of the Shortage

The shortage is driven by several converging factors:

- **AI Data Center Demand:** Hyperscale AI data centers require massive amounts of high-performance fiber, particularly G657A2 cables, for internal and interconnect networks. A single 10,000-GPU cluster can consume tens of thousands of fiber kilometers, creating unprecedented demand .
- **Government Programs:** Initiatives like the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) program and the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF) are pushing for extensive fiber deployment, adding hundreds of thousands of miles of fiber to the market .
- **Limited Domestic Production:** U.S. manufacturing currently meets only about 53% of domestic fiber demand, with heavy reliance on imports. Only three U.S. vendors—Corning, OFS, and Prysmian—produce Buy America-compliant glass for fiber cables, creating bottlenecks .
- **Raw Material Constraints:** Glass for fiber production is scarce, and some manufacturers have sold out inventory through 2026, further tightening supply .

Market Impacts



Article Content

Global shortage of fiber-optic cable threatens digital growth

A worldwide shortage of fiber-optic cable has driven up prices and lengthened lead times, endangering companies"

Supply chain obstacles in the fibre industry | Prysmian

As demand grows, so does the competition. Fiber optic manufacturers are competing for a limited supply of

10 Best Fiber Optic Manufacturers for 2026

Discover the best fiber optic manufacturers globally, offering cutting-edge multimode and single mode fiber solutions.

Why We All Must Tackle Tightening of Global Fibre Optic Supply In 2026

This "perfect storm" of demand has put pressure on the supply of fibre-optic cable, leading to constraints as supply

Fiber Optic Cable Price in 2026: Market Updates and

Track the latest fiber optic cable price changes in 2026, including market updates from

AI Data Center Optical Component Shortage: Nvidia's \$4B Laser

AI data center optical component shortage is pushing 800G transceiver production 40-60% below demand through

Prysmian signs €5.5 billion Molex deal in data center push

Italian cable maker Prysmian has signed a long-term agreement worth up to €5.5 billion (\$6.4 billion) with Molex, an

Sky-High Prices Contribute to Rising Fiber Optic Cable Costs

Input costs for fiber optic cable are adding upward pressure on fiber optic cable prices at a time when demand for fiber technology is

Optical fiber cable

Fiber consumption of AI data centers is 5-10 times that of traditional data centers. Hot-selling products: Ribbon fiber, multi-core fiber,

Fiber Optics Market Size & Share Report, 2026-2033

Fiber Optics Market Summary The global fiber optics market size was valued at USD 10.8 billion in 2025 and is projected to grow

Here's how big the fiber shortage really is

Fiber cables and glass are in short supply. FBA and Superior Essex spoke with Fierce about how the constraints

Keeping fiber shortages in check

Last summer, reports were suggesting that fiber providers were struggling to get hold of the materials necessary to run

What is Causing the Global Optical Fiber Shortage in 2026?

The fiber-optic communications industry is currently facing what many describe as one of the most severe shortages

Future is Fiber | Cable Industry Challenges to Adapting

Learn about the challenges facing the cable industry and how Corning is lowering

Global shortage of fiber optic cables leads to delays, price increases

Fiber optic cable prices are ballooning and lead times are increasing amid a global supply shortage. According to

McKinsey Direct Opportunities in networking optics: Boosting supply

Opportunities in networking optics: Boosting supply for data centers Potential shortfalls in networking optics supply could hinder data

Understanding the Global Fiber Optic Supply Squeeze

Understanding the Global Fiber Optic Supply Squeeze Across the global telecommunications and data

Optical fibre prices rise as preform availability tightens

The interaction between sustained demand growth and limited upstream flexibility has

Fiber optic cable Market Size, Share & Trends, 2034

Global Fiber Optic Cable Market Size The global fiber optic cable market size was valued at USD 13.84 billion in 2025

Fiber Optic Market Outlook 2026: Why Prices Are

To optimize your supply chain, consider consolidating your fiber optics purchasing needs

Fiber-optic cable

A fiber-optic cable, also known as an optical-fiber cable, is an assembly similar to an electrical cable but

Insights and Strategies for 2025 and Beyond

We manufacture optical fiber in Georgia and Massachusetts, and Fiber Optic cable in Georgia and Connecticut, and have invested

Global Fiber Optic Cable Market Analysis | OPELINK

The fiber optic cable industry is witnessing a structural transformation from a cyclical commodity market to a

The Global Bare Fiber Market in 2026: Price Surge, Supply Crisis, and ...

Bare Fiber Market Analysis: Current State, Price Surge Drivers, and Future Outlook
The optical fiber industry is

The Global Bare Fiber Market in 2026: Price Surge, Supply Crisis, and ...

In this post, we break down the current market status, the root causes behind the sudden price spikes, and what to

2026 Fiber Optic Market Crisis: G657A2 Supply

The fiber optic industry is experiencing an unprecedented supply crunch. If you have

How will fiber and equipment vendors meet the increased demand for ...

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

Optical Fiber Shortage 2026

As of mid-2026, the optical fiber supply chain is facing a significant shortage due to increased demand from AI data centers, military

Contact Us

For more information, pricing, or custom solutions, please contact us:

Website: <https://e-motional.eu>

Email: info@e-motional.eu

Phone: +49-30-657-8924

Address: Friedrichstraße 101, 10117 Berlin, Germany

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