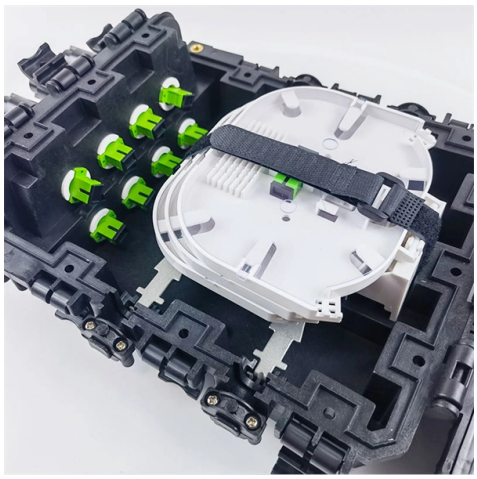
Where is the China-Pakistan cross-border optical cable located



Overview

China-Pakistan cross-border optical fiber cable project is a prioritized/early harvest project under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), with a total amount of USD 44 million.

Key Takeaways

The China-Pakistan cross-border optical fiber cable is fully operational, connecting Rawalpindi in Pakistan to Khunjerab at the Chinese border, with ongoing plans to extend connectivity to Gwadar and Karachi.

Project Overview

The Pakistan-

China Fiber Optic Project spans 820 kilometers within Pakistan, linking Rawalpindi to the Khunjerab Pass at the China-Pakistan border, and further connecting to Urumqi in China's Xinjiang region. The project was inaugurated in July 2018 and was constructed as part of the China–Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), with Huawei and China Telecom collaborating with Pakistan's Special Communications Organization (SCO) for engineering, procurement, and construction. The cable provides 3G and 4G services and establishes a direct terrestrial link between Pakistan and China, reducing reliance on undersea cables.

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Technical and Operational Details

Route Distribution: 466. 54 km in Gilgit-Baltistan, 287. 66 km in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 47.

56 km in Punjab, and 18. 2 km in Islamabad Capital Territory. Backup Link: A 172 km aerial optical fiber cable from Karimabad to Khunjerab ensures redundancy.

Infrastructure: Includes 9 intensive light multiplexing rooms and modern equipment for signal transmission. Financing: 85% of the project cost is financed through a concessional loan from the Exim Bank of China, with the remaining 15% funded by Pakistan.

Strategic Significance

The cable is a key component of Pakistan's Digital Silk Road, enhancing digital connectivity, cybersecurity, and data transfer efficiency between Pakistan, China, and Central Asia. It provides: Lower latency for data transfer to China and Central Asia. Enhanced redundancy, reducing outages from undersea cable disruptions.

Support for national digital initiatives, including the National Fiberization Policy and FTTH rollout.

Future Expansion

Phase I

I of the project aims to extend the cable southwards to Gwadar and Karachi, creating a complete north-south digital corridor in Pakistan. This expansion will integrate data centers and cloud infrastructure, supporting digital sovereignty, e-governance, and business analytics within Pakistan. In summary, the China-Pakistan cross-border optical cable is fully operational, forming a critical backbone for Pakistan's digital infrastructure, with ongoing plans to expand connectivity to southern ports and enhance the country's role in regional digital networks.

Article Content

Pakistan-China Fiber Optic Project

The Pakistan-China Fiber Optic Project is an 820 kilometer long optical fiber cable connecting Pakistan and China; it was laid down between the Khunjerab Pass on the China-Pakistan border and the

BRI Factsheet Series – Pakistan-China Optical Fibre Cable Project

The cable spans a distance of 2,950 kilometers, connecting Rawalpindi (Punjab) with Khunjerab (Gilgit Baltistan) at the Chinese border at a height of 4,700 metres above the sea level, northwards to

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China-Pakistan Cross-border Optical Fiber Cable Project

China-Pakistan cross-border optical fiber cable project is a prioritized/early harvest project under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), with a total amount of USD 44 million.

Engineering:Pakistan-China Fiber Optic Project

The Pakistan-China Fiber Optic Project is an 820 kilometer long optical fiber cable connecting Pakistan and China; it was laid down between the Khunjerab Pass on the China-Pakistan

Pak-China Cable

The Pak-China Optic Fiber Cable (Pak-China OFC) covers a distance of 822 kilometers and runs from Rawalpindi till Khunjerab pass to connect with China. The Pak-China OFC is operated and

Cross Border Optical Fiber Cable

The fiber optical cable covers an area of 820 km.The project will help improve the telecom and ICT industry of Pakistan, promote tourism and create trading opportunities for northern areas of

China and Pakistan cross-border fiber optic cable project is officially ...

Recently, China-Pakistan cross-border cable project launch ceremony was held in the northern city of Gilgit in Pakistan. Two representatives of the Government of Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif

Pak-China Optical Fiber Cable Launched for Service

The Pak-China OFC covers a distance of 2950 kilometers, runs from Rawalpindi in Pakistan, through Khunjerab border-pass at 4733 meters height above the sea level, northwards to

Practice and Case Study on Cross-border Cable Project

Fiber Optic Cable is the first cross-border terrestrial cable directly connecting China and Pakistan. It stretches from Urumqi to Rawalpindi through the Khunjerab Pass at the China-Pakistan border.

Pak-China Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) Project

Pak-China Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) Project is OFC linkage between Pakistan and China under which 820 km long OFC laying between Rawalpindi and Khunjerab Pass was completed in a

BRI Factsheet Series – Pakistan-China Optical Fibre Cable Project

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The cross border Optical Fibre Cable project provides 3G and 4G services to Pakistan, spanning a total distance of 2,950 kilometers.

China-Pakistan Cross-border Optical Fiber Cable Project

3) Pakistan''s main international gateway optical fiber outlet now depends only on the submarine optical fiber cable near Karachi. China-Pakistan cable will provide Pakistan another international gateway

China Telecom Completes First China-Pakistan Optical Fiber Link

Yao Jing, Chinese ambassador to Pakistan, said that the “Pak-China Optical Fiber Cable”” is the first cross-border cable which connects China and Pakistan directly. It was the early successes of “China

Pak-China Optical Fiber Cable Launched for Service

The Pak-China cable will be jointly operated and maintained by Special Communication Organization of Pakistan and China Telecom. China Telecom and SCO have sucessfully completed

Breakthrough for “the Belt and Road Initiative” project, China Telecom ...

The opening of “Pak-China Optical Fibre Cable” will lay the foundation for promoting the core projects of “ China-Pakistan Information Corridor ” project and will play an important role in

Cross Border Optical Fiber Cable

Project Cross Border Optical Fiber Cable Project Description The fiber optical cable covers an area of 820 km.The project will help improve the telecom and

China–Pakistan Economic Corridor

In May 2016, construction began on the $44 million 820-kilometer-long Pakistan-China Fiber Optic Project, a cross-border Optical Fiber cable that will enhance

Pakistan-China Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) Project – Phase-II

By Dr. Abdul Rauf We have witnessed the completion of phase-I of Pakistan-China Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) project on July 13, 2018. This is a 820km long Optical Fibre Cable link between Rawalpindi ...

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