

Steenberg Office Park

Fibre Optic open-access infrastructure

Overview - Broadband

Broadband download speeds have increased dramatically in the last two decades and several technologies are used to deliver broadband in South Africa, such as ADSL, copper network, wireless and satellite - but all these technologies have limits in terms of bandwidth, reliability, cost or coverage.

Each of these technologies is able to compete for a share of the low-speed broadband market as technical limitations make delivery at higher speeds difficult.

Currently, only fibre can deliver the highest speeds (in fact fibre offers almost limitless bandwidth capabilities) and it will become increasingly difficult for any non-fibre delivery platform to support future demand for speed and capacity.

In the past, access to fibre infrastructure has only been available to a select few service providers and the organisations who could afford to make the significant capital investment in the infrastructure to connect 'the last mile'.

In most cases the users were also required to source the services from the owner of the infrastructure, limiting the consumers' ability to choose services in a free and competitive market.

In Steenberg Office Park this is an open-access network – The infrastructure and the ISP service providers are clearly separated from each other. This means:

In Steenberg Office Park there are no restrictions

You can use any licensed Service Provider

This logical separation of infrastructure and services is more cost effective as the infrastructure is effectively shared among the service providers. It creates new markets for service providers and encourages more competition among them leading to lower prices and better service offerings for us. This gives end-users more choice and control. The fibre install is "dark" or 'unlit' which offers providers technical flexibility and scalability.

Conduct Telecommunications - The 'cabling company'

Conduct Telecommunications (a subsidiary company of Dark Fibre Africa) is installing and maintaining the **'last mile' open access fibre** optic infrastructure. Once the fibre is deployed to the buildings in the park, the owners and tenants in Steenberg Office Park may source services directly from any licensed internet service provider.

Just to be clear, Conduct Telecommunications are installing and maintaining this infrastructure. There is no obligation to make use of it but we do suggest you look at your options.

What is OPEN-ACCESS?

Open-access infrastructure is fibre infrastructure that is independent from the services provided over it. In other words, any entity with either an ECS or ECNS licence can provide services to its clients using the open-access infrastructure. The infrastructure is available to all operators on equal terms. Once fibre is deployed in Steenberg Office Park, the tenants and owners interact directly with their service providers to source broadband services.

What is DARK FIBRE?

Dark fibre is unused optical fibre infrastructure. As fibre technology transmits data as light waves, unused fibre is known as dark. The use of dark fibre gives service providers the ability to select the transmission technology they prefer. It gives them the flexibility and scalability to meet their clients' needs without having to incur the major capital expenditure of installing the infrastructure. They can also avoid renting expensive managed services from operators that may be competitors