Steenberg Office Park

Fibre Optic open-access Infrastructure

October 2014

The Steenberg Office Park Property Owners Association has authorised the installation of a fibre optic network to all buildings in Steenberg Office Park. This installation will be completed by early November 2014. The Office Park network connects to the national infrastructure via Westlake Business Park.

Diagram showing the fibre optic ring network connecting all buildings in Steenberg Office Park with Westlake Business Park. The backbone network loops on both sides of Steenberg Road

Background – Why fibre optic ?

The South African telecommunications market has witnessed major changes over the past five years. The combination of deregulation and triple play technology convergence (voice, video and data) has changed the broadband landscape.

Services are being delivered in a competitive environment by multiple service providers, including fixed-line carriers, mobile operators, internet service providers,

broadcasters and media companies. Product ranges are increasingly expanding, and services such as voice, data and video are often bundled with others.

There are many competing technologies that can deliver broadband services such as ADSL, wireless etc. All these technologies have limits in terms of bandwidth, reliability, cost or coverage. Only optical fibre offers almost limitless bandwidth capabilities with excellent reliability.

The service providers who compete in this market have differing capabilities, product offerings and business objectives, but they share a common requirement for more communications bandwidth to satisfy customers' needs. This massive increase in demand for communications bandwidth requires the installation of world-class fibre optic infrastructure.

This demand has lead to the huge expansion of fibre optic backbone infrastructure in South Africa. Several companies capable of funding the construction of this backbone have emerged. These companies have each focused on creating metropolitan networks and long-haul fibre infrastructure.

To date, this expansion has been driven by the bandwidth needs of the mobile operators as well as large corporations and institutions who can afford the cost of accessing the backbone infrastructure.

Until recently, smaller companies could not justify the high cost of access, but with the dramatic increases in demand the market is now more competitive, and Steenberg Office Park with more than 100 companies is an attractive proposition to ISPs and fibre-optic cable providers.

So, with access to fibre, world-class broadband services are now available to all owners and tenants in Steenberg Office Park.

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