West African Underground Optical Cable Company



Overview

The West Africa Cable System (WACS) is a linking with the along the west coast of Africa that was constructed by. The cable consists of four fibre pairs and is 14,530 km in length, linking from in the of South Africa to in the. It has 14, 12 along the western coast of Africa (includ.

Key Takeaways

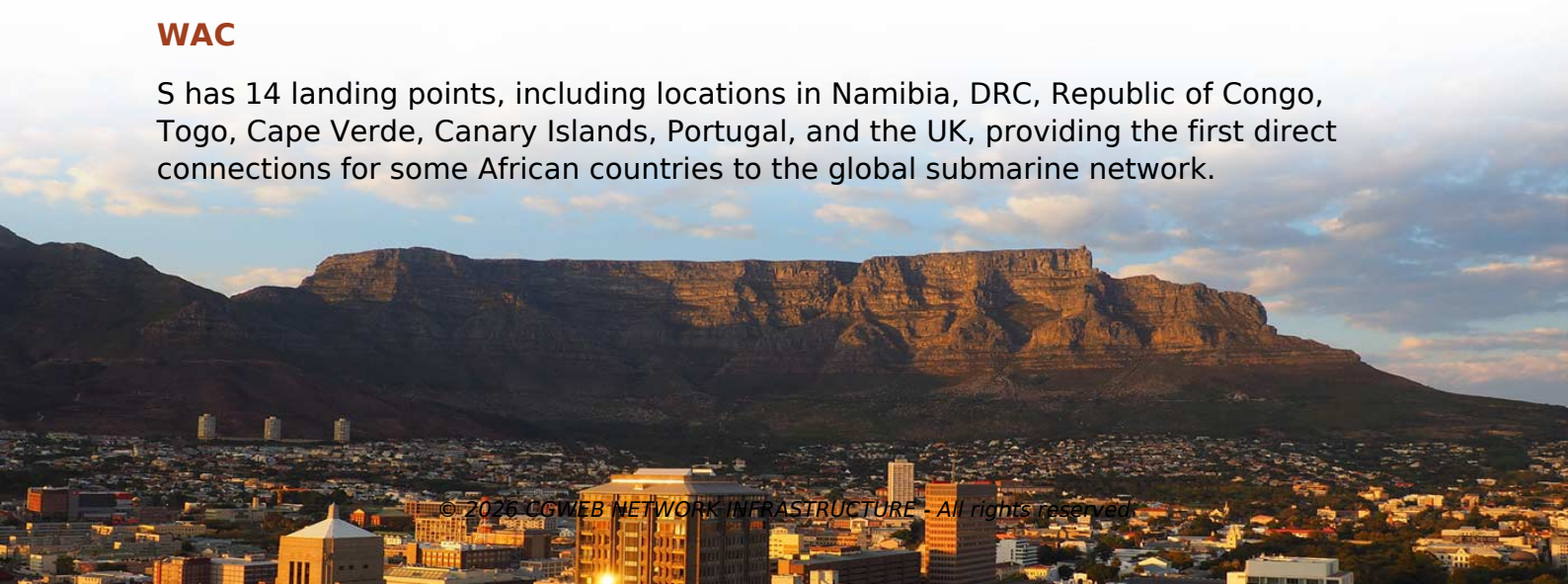
The West Africa Cable System (WACS) is a key submarine optical cable connecting West Africa to Europe and South Africa, forming a backbone for regional and international connectivity.

Overview of WACS

The West Africa Cable System (WACS) is a 14,530 km submarine communications cable linking South Africa to the United Kingdom along the west coast of Africa, constructed by Alcatel-Lucent and involving 18 international telecom carriers. It consists of four fibre pairs with an initial design capacity of 5. 12 Tbps, supporting high-speed data transmission across multiple countries.

WAC

S has 14 landing points, including locations in Namibia, DRC, Republic of Congo, Togo, Cape Verde, Canary Islands, Portugal, and the UK, providing the first direct connections for some African countries to the global submarine network.



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Technical Features

Fibre Pairs and Wavelengths: Each fibre pair was initially designed with 128 wavelengths at 10 Gbps per wavelength, with some segments supporting 40 Gbps from the start. Routing: WACS includes express, semi-express, and omnibus fibre pairs to interconnect South Africa, Nigeria, Angola, DRC, Ivory Coast, and other West African countries to London. Latency: The system delivers a round-trip delay of 138.

5 ms between Yzerfontein in South Africa and Highbridge in the UK. Investment: The total cost of the system was approximately US$650 million.

Role of WIOCC

The West Indian Ocean Cable Company (WIOCC) operates as a wholesale provider of digital infrastructure across Africa, integrating terrestrial fibre networks with submarine cables like WACS.

WIOC

C enables businesses, cloud operators, and telcos to access scalable, high-performance connectivity across the continent, supporting cross-border digital services and hyperscale network deployment. Their open-access, carrier-neutral model allows clients to leverage WACS and other submarine cables for reliable, flexible, and resilient connectivity. Impact on West AfricaWACS and associated infrastructure have significantly enhanced internet bandwidth and connectivity in West Africa, enabling faster access to global content and cloud services.

Countries like Namibia, DRC, Republic of Congo, and Togo gained their first direct submarine cable connections, reducing reliance on older, less resilient routes. Despite occasional disruptions, such as the 2023 cable break in the Congo Canyon, WACS remains a critical component of Africa's digital transformation.

Conclusion

While there is no publicly documented entity named "West African Underground Optical Cable Company," the WACS system and WIOCC's operations represent the core of West Africa's optical cable infrastructure. Together, they provide high-capacity, reliable, and scalable connectivity that underpins regional digital growth, international communications, and access to global cloud and content services.

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Article Content

West Africa Cable System

OverviewHistoryLanding pointsDesign capacityInnovationsTopologyConstruction and ownershipSee also

The West Africa Cable System (WACS) is a submarine communications cable linking South Africa with the United Kingdom along the west coast of Africa that was constructed by Alcatel-Lucent. The cable consists of four fibre pairs and is 14,530 km in length, linking from Yzerfontein in the Western Cape of South Africa to London in the United Kingdom. It has 14 landing points, 12 along the western coast of Africa (includ

WIOCC | Redefining Africa''s Digital Future | Africa''s #1

We build and operate critical infrastructure for intra-African and international connectivity, enabling your business to expand seamlessly across borders,

West Africa Cable System (WACS) Overview

The West Africa Cable System (WACS) is a 14530km submarine cable system connecting 15 countries, starting from South Africa and ending in London. WACS was supplied by ASN, and

West Africa Cable System (WACS) – Submarine Cable System

Ultra-high capacity fibre optic cable system linking Europe, West Africa, and South Africa

SEACOM (African cable system)

On 23 July 2009, the 17,000 kilometres (11,000 mi) cable began operations, providing the eastern and southern African countries of Djibouti, Kenya,

West Africa Cable System

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Home | 2Africa Cable

This major investment will complete our existing submarine and pan-African terrestrial infrastructures to provide access to international connectivity in a redundant fashion throughout the west coast of Africa.

Evolution of Undersea Cables Connecting Africa: Key

Here''s a breakdown of how undersea cables evolved around Africa, the major milestones, and the real-world impact on internet access and affordability.

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Fiber Optic Cable Market Size

The Fiber Optic Cable Market worth USD 14.22 billion in 2026 is growing at a CAGR of 9.84% to reach USD 22.74 billion by 2031. Corning Inc., Sumitomo Electric Industries Ltd, Prysmian

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List of terrestrial fibre optic cable projects in Africa

This is a list of terrestrial fibre optic cable projects in Africa. While submarine communications cables are used to connect countries and continents to the Internet, terrestrial fibre optic cables are used to

West Africa Cable System

The West Africa Cable System (WACS) is a submarine communications cable linking South Africa with the United Kingdom along the west coast of Africa that was constructed by Alcatel-Lucent. The cable

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This updated list ranks the 20 largest fiber-optic cable companies worldwide and Learn more from AIMIFIBER — fiber optic manufacturer since 2008.

Fibre optic undersea cables. Where, who and how

Fibre optic undersea cables transfer data across the world. Find out how this works and where in Africa they are.

Fiber Optic Cable

Fiber Optic Cable Market Analysis The Fiber Optic Cable Market size is estimated at USD 13.92 billion in 2025, and is expected to reach USD 20.94 billion by 2030, at a CAGR of 10.46%

Undersea cables for Africa''s internet retrace history and

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Fibre optic cables now literally encircle Africa, though some parts of the continent are far better connected than others.

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