

DSM Press Release



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DeSolite Supercoatings™ Enable CapEx Efficiencies for Telecoms with Higher Fiber Count Cable

Newest-Generation Fiber Coating Technology Allows at Least 30% Greater Utilization of Existing Ducts in Access Deployments

The newest generation of optical fiber coatings from DSM Desotech, the global leader in fiber coating technology, is helping telecom operators make important savings by enabling at least 30% more fiber to be installed in access network ducts—the pipes that carry telecommunication cables to end-users in urban areas. This enabling of deployments in access network ducts reduces the investment needed for digging new trenches and accelerates payback time, potentially increasing ROI for operators by 30%.

“DeSolite Supercoatings™ are engineered for low microbend sensitivity, which facilitates the reduction of coating thickness resulting in increasing a compact cable’s fiber count by more than 30%,” said Steve Schmid, DSM Director, Fiber Optic Materials R&D.

This is good news for telecom operators, who now “rent” duct capacity from network owners in countries where regulations allow it. The breakthrough comes at a particularly important time for the telecom industry in Europe, where a new round of liberalization could act as a catalyst for long-awaited, large-scale, fiber-to-the-home deployments. In France, the country has already seen considerable investment since it opened up access to ducts and now similar moves are expected soon in Germany and the UK, among other countries.

“With governments increasingly looking to high speed broadband access to deliver social and economic value, we are seeing more and more interest from telecom operators in large-scale, Fiber-to-the-Home deployments,” said Jan-Willem Leclercq, Vice President Marketing & Business Development Draka Communications. “Now, with our BendBright-Technology and our ColorLock-XS coating technology leveraging DeSolite Supercoatings™, density in compact cable designs can be increased by up to 30%, hence the ROI equation for telecom operators is more clear-cut than ever.”

“The broadband industry is being tasked to deliver network capacity into increasingly complex environments,” said Rob Crowell, Vice President Fiber Optic Materials DSM Desotech. “DSM’s goal is coating innovation that can make fiber-all-the-way a cost-effective and profitable option for service providers. DeSolite Supercoatings™ deliver that kind of performance.”

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DSM – the Life Sciences and Materials Sciences Company

Royal DSM N.V. creates solutions that nourish, protect and improve performance. Its end markets include human and animal nutrition and health, personal care, pharmaceuticals, automotive, coatings and paint, electrical and electronics, life protection and housing. DSM manages its business with a focus on the triple bottom line of economic prosperity, environmental quality and social equity, which it pursues simultaneously and in parallel. DSM has annual net sales of about € 8 billion and employs some 22,700 people worldwide. The company is headquartered in the Netherlands, with locations on five continents. DSM is listed on Euronext Amsterdam. More information: www.dsm.com

About DSM Desotech

DSM Desotech is the world's leading developer of UV-curable optical fiber coatings, a critical component of high-speed optical fiber networks. With more than 40 years experience in fiber coatings development, the company holds more than 120 U.S. patents in UV-curable technology, with other patents in Europe, Asia-Pacific, Australia and Canada. DSM Desotech operates globally, with research and manufacturing facilities located in the U.S., Europe, China and Japan. It is headquartered in Elgin, Ill., USA. DSM Desotech is a business unit of DSM Resins, based in the Netherlands, and is part of the global DSM family – a world leader in life sciences and material sciences. More information can be found at: www.supercoatings.com.

About DeSolite Supercoatings™

DSM's newest generation of fiber coatings, DeSolite Supercoatings™, has been engineered to significantly improve microbending sensitivity at the fastest processing speeds, ensuring the best economy of high speed production and superior attenuation performance. In standard basket-weave testing, DeSolite Supercoatings™ display 90% less sensitivity to microbend attenuation—a performance advantage critical for today's new FTTx designs, especially at the longer wavelengths of 1625nm. In addition to improved microbending sensitivity, DeSolite Supercoatings™ demonstrate high reliability in temperature extremes, ensuring a robust solution especially in low temperature environments. Other enhanced performance properties include reduced volatility, faster cure speed and advanced mechanical properties.

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