Working principle of air-blown optical cable



Overview

Cable blowing is the process of installation of optical fiber cable into a pre-installed duct. Compressed air is injected in the duct inlet after few hundred meters of cable is pushed into the duct.

Key Takeaways

Air-blown optical cables use compressed air to propel lightweight fiber optic cables through pre-installed microducts, reducing friction and mechanical stress while enabling flexible, scalable installation. Working PrincipleAir-blown optical cables, also called blown fiber cables or microduct cables, operate on the principle of pneumatic transport. The process begins with the installation of microducts, which are small, smooth-walled plastic tubes (typically 10–20 mm in diameter) laid along the desired pathway, such as underground conduits, cable trays, or building risers.

Once the microducts are in place, the optical fibers—usually in the form of lightweight, high-fiber-count micro cables—are inserted into the ducts. A specialized air blowing machine introduces compressed air (typically 8–12 bar) into the microduct system. The airflow creates a cushion of air around the cable, effectively lifting it off the duct walls and reducing friction.

This allows the cable to “float” through the duct while a gentle mechanical pushing force at the entry point helps initiate movement. The combination of air propulsion and minimal mechanical push enables the cable to travel long distances—hundreds to thousands of meters—without damage.

© 2026 CJC FIBRE CONSULTANTS - All rights reserved

Advantages of Air-Blown Installation

Reduced friction and mechanical stress: The air cushion minimizes contact with the duct wall, preventing fiber damage during installation. Flexible and scalable deployment: Empty microducts can be installed first, and fibers can be blown in later as needed, supporting phased network expansion. Smaller pathways and lower cost: Microducts require less space than traditional conduits, reducing trenching, labor, and material costs.

High-speed installation: Modern blowing equipment can achieve speeds of 100–150 meters per minute, with some systems reaching up to 500 feet per minute under optimal conditions.

Factors Affecting Performance

Cable stiffness and flexibility: Stiffer cables perform better in straight ducts, while flexible cables navigate bends more effectively. Duct design: Smooth, low-friction inner surfaces of microducts enhance blowing efficiency. Air pressure and flow rate: Properly controlled compressed air ensures consistent propulsion without damaging the fibers.

ApplicationsAir-blown optical cables are widely used in FTTH (Fiber to the Home), 5G/6G backhaul, data center interconnects, and rural broadband networks due to their scalability, low installation cost, and adaptability to complex or congested pathways. In summary, the principle of air-blown optical cables relies on compressed air to transport lightweight fiber cables through microducts, providing a flexible, efficient, and low-stress method for modern fiber optic network deployment.

Article Content

Introduction to Air Blown Optical Cable

How does Air Blown Optical Cable work? The working principle of Air Blown Optical Cable involves the use of air propulsion to install optical fibers in

Installation of Optical Fiber Cable by Blowing/Jetting

Cable blowing is the process of installation of optical fiber cable into a pre-installed duct. Compressed air is injected in the duct inlet after few hundred meters of cable is pushed into the duct.

Fiber Blowing Technology Explained

Understanding the Air Blown Fiber Installation Principle. Air blown fiber installation uses a combination of pulling force, compressed air propulsion, and the mechanical thrust of the cable

© 2026 CJC FIBRE CONSULTANTS - All rights reserved

What is an Air Blowing Micro Fiber Optic Cable: The

Air blowing micro fiber optic cable (also called blown fiber cable, micro duct cable, or air-blown fiber) is a lightweight, high-fiber-count optical cable

Principle of air blowing optical cable

Air blowing optical cable is a safe and effective method for laying optical cables. During the cable laying process, the cable blowing machine simultaneously acts on the optical cable with the

Air Blown Fiber

Developed in 1982, air blown fiber ensures the appropriate fiber is installed at the right time, reducing expenditure and providing an environmentally-friendly fiber solution — all while meeting stringent

Air-Assisted Installation Considerations

Both methods require pushing the cable with a tractor mechanism while blowing compressed air into a pre-installed duct around the cable being installed. Both rely on air flow to help “float” the cable inside

Fiber Blowing Solutions: A New, Efficient and Flexible

In this blog post, we''ll cover everything you need to know about air-blown fiber systems, including how they work, where they''re used, benefits

Air-blown optical cable principle

The optical cable was generally laid by traction. This method has a short cable threading distance and slow speed due to the large friction coefficient of the inner wall of the pipeline, and it is

Understanding Air Blown Fiber Cables | Fiber Xpress Mart

As air blown fiber optic cables continue to gain traction within the industry, understanding their design and benefits becomes essential for both professionals and consumers alike. This introductory

What are the benefits and applications of air blown fiber

Conclusion Air blown fiber optic cable is a game-changer in modern network deployments. Its flexibility, rapid installation, cost-effectiveness, upgradability,

Fiber Blowing Technology Explained

Let''s explore how it works and why it''s transforming modern network installations. Understanding the Air Blown Fiber Installation Principle Air blown fiber installation uses a

© 2026 CJC FIBRE CONSULTANTS - All rights reserved

Everything You Want to Know about Air Blown Fiber System

The air blown fiber system is to pre-lay special fiber-blown micro-tubes and accessories in the early stage of integrated wiring.

Whitepaper Guide to air blown cabling systems

Why is air blown cabling systems superior to traditional cable solution in FTTH? Air blown Fiber, Nano Cables and Micro Cables are flexible and cost-effective cabling systems for installation of optical

What is Air Blown Cable?

What are the advantages of air-blown optical cable Air blown fibers being blown into place, rather than pulled, puts no zero tensile stress on the fiber during

How To Blow Fiber Optic Cable□

Key Considerations Cable Bend Radius: Always maintain the minimum bend radius of the fiber optic cable to avoid damage. Blowing Distance: Air-blown cable systems can typically

What is an Air Blowing Micro Fiber Optic Cable: The

Air blowing micro fiber optic cable has revolutionized the way fiber optic networks are deployed worldwide, especially in FTTH (Fiber to the Home),

air blown fiber cable | Factory Insights

This guide provides a complete overview of air blown fiber cable technology, including working principles, cable types, selection guidelines, applications, and

Related Video Reference

This video was associated with the source search result. Verify technical details against current product documentation and project requirements.

© 2026 CJC FIBRE CONSULTANTS - All rights reserved

Contact Us

Continue your research online:

Website: https://cjcconsultants.co.za
Technical inquiry: https://cjcconsultants.co.za/contact.html

This document is for preliminary research. Verify specifications against current standards, product documentation and project requirements.

© 2026 CJC FIBRE CONSULTANTS - All rights reserved