

World's Longest Optical Cable

Article Overview

The current longest optical submarine cable is the SEA-ME-WE 3, measuring 39,000 kilometers, but the upcoming 2Africa cable will surpass it at over 45,000 kilometers.

SEA-ME-WE 3

- Length: 39,000 kilometers (24,000 miles).
- Completion: Launched in late 2000, it connects Southeast Asia, the Middle East, and Western Europe.
- Technology: Utilizes wavelength-division multiplexing (WDM) technology to enhance capacity and signal quality over long distances. It has undergone several upgrades to increase its data capacity over the years.
- Status: As of December 2024, SEA-ME-WE 3 has been declared end-of-life after 25 years of service .

2Africa Cable

- Length: Expected to exceed 45,000 kilometers, making it the longest once fully operational.
- Purpose: Designed to enhance connectivity between East and West Africa, Europe, the Middle East, and South Asia, it aims to significantly increase international bandwidth capacity and improve network resilience across a rapidly growing market .
- Current Status: The cable is under construction and is expected to be operational by 2023/2024, with further expansions planned .

Future Developments

- Meta's Undersea Cable: There are plans for a cable by Meta (formerly Facebook) that could potentially be longer than the Earth's circumference, at around 50,000 kilometers. However, this project is still in the planning stages and not yet operational .

In summary, while the SEA-ME-WE 3 currently holds the title for the longest operational optical cable, the 2Africa cable is set to take that title soon, reflecting the ongoing advancements in global telecommunications infrastructure.



Article Content

Sep 02, 2025

Meta to Deploy World's Longest Submarine Fiber Optic Cable

On 14 February 2025, while lovers were exchanging romantic gifts, Meta declared its unremitted love for speed with a plan to deploy

Feb 24, 2026

Submarine Cable Map

TeleGeography's comprehensive and regularly updated interactive map of the world's major submarine cable systems

Jun 11, 2026

Fiber Map of the World 2026

Terrestrial fiber optic networks form the backbone of global telecommunications, linking major cities, data centers, and critical

Nov 07, 2025

Meta announces project Waterworth: The world's longest subsea cable ...

Technological Innovation The subsea cable will use cutting-edge fiber-optic technology that can transmit petabits of

Nov 20, 2025

SUBCO Designs World's Longest Continuous Subsea Optical Path

Bevan Slattery, Founder & Co-CEO of SUBCO, said: By utilizing the latest developments in submarine cable

Dec 27, 2025

World's longest subsea cable lands in Djibouti, East Africa

Meta's 2 Africa subsea cable has landed in Djibouti City, Djibouti. Djibouti Telecom announced on 13 May that the country's 9th

Oct 21, 2025

Fibre-optic Link Around the Globe

Fibre-optic Link Around the Globe (FLAG) is a 28,000-kilometre-long (17,398 mi; 15,119 nmi) fibre optic mostly- submarine

Aug 15, 2025

The Undersea Cables that Connect the World

This is the CS Cable Innovator, it is specifically designed for laying fiber optic cable and is

May 07, 2026

SEA-ME-WE 3

At the time of commissioning, 18 October 1994, SEA-ME-WE2 was the world's longest optical fibre submarine cable system at 18,751

Apr 15, 2026

Meta plans globe-spanning sub-sea internet cable

The tech giant said Project Waterworth - connecting the US, India, South Africa, Brazil and other regions - will be the

May 31, 2026

World's longest subsea cable completed: Meta's 2Africa set to ...

Meta and its consortium partners have completed the core 2Africa subsea cable system, marking a major milestone

Mar 05, 2026

Longest submarine fibre-optic cable

Light forms the basis for all communications in the modern world, with many thousands of kilometers of fibre-optic cables to be found

Jan 13, 2026

Apple supplier Corning wins \$6 billion from Meta for AI optical ...

Meta will pay Corning up to \$6 billion through 2030 for fiber-optic cable in its AI data centers. In an exclusive interview

Feb 20, 2026

The World's Longest Fiber Optic Cable?

Much of the world's communication travels through intricate networks of fiber optic cables, many of which stretch

Apr 02, 2026

OWC USB4 Active Optical Cable: Up to 40Gb/s

By combining cutting-edge optical design with our decades-proven attention to quality, we created the

Jul 20, 2026

World's longest subsea cable 2Africa reaches Saudi Arabia in ...

RIYADH: Saudi Arabia is now connected to the world's longest subsea cable after the 45,000-km fiber-optic 2Africa

Jun 30, 2026

Meta's undersea cable to be longer than the Earth is round

Meta (formerly Facebook) plans to build the world's longest undersea cable that will be longer than the Earth is round.

Feb 20, 2026

Meta plans globe-spanning sub-sea internet cable

Meta has announced plans to build a 50,000km (31,000 mile) sub-sea cable across the world. The tech giant said

Oct 11, 2025

Subsea network solutions | Nokia

Nokia subsea network solutions power many of the world's longest fiber optic cables,

Jun 20, 2026

What is the longest internet cable you can get?

Conclusion The SEA-ME-WE 3 cable, as the longest internet cable, exemplifies the incredible engineering

Oct 28, 2025

Submarine Cable FAQs

Submarine Cable 101 How many cables are there? As of 2026, we track more than 600 active and planned

Mar 08, 2026

Meta's Project Waterworth: The World's Longest Subsea Cable Connecting ...

It's called Project Waterworth. If successful, it will be the longest subsea

Jul 08, 2026

The 10 Longest Underwater Cables in the World

The SEA-ME-WE3 cable, which connects Southeast Asia, the Middle East, and Western Europe, is the world's

Dec 14, 2025

Waterworth

With Project Waterworth, Meta continues to advance engineering design to maintain cable resilience, building the

Feb 23, 2026

Top 20 Fiber Optic Cable Manufacturers in the World

Based on 2025 rankings from industry sources like Owire and TSCables, the top

Contact Us

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