



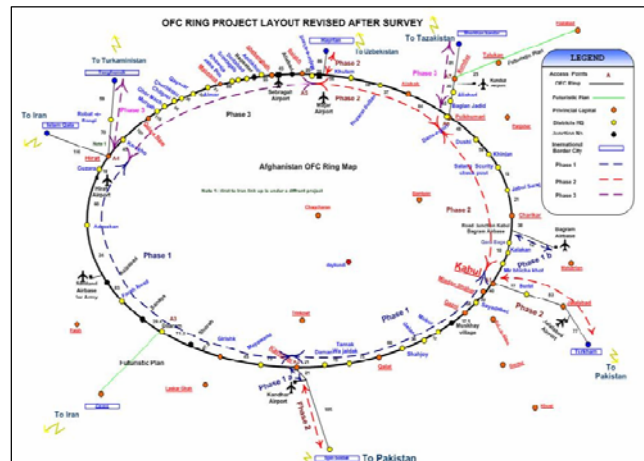
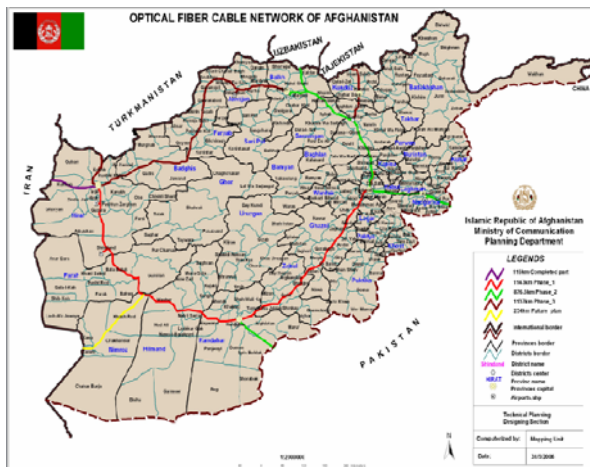
## National Optical Fiber Backbone

### Project Description:

Afghanistan is a developing country with limited though improving basic infrastructure such as roads and power capacity. This Network will link many of the principle cities of Afghanistan following the route of the national roadway system. This Project is for the turnkey construction and operation of the complete OFC Ring around Afghanistan which is estimated approximately 3,200 km length.

The project is planned to be conducted over 3 phases and over a 2 year time frame. It will be expected that each phase becomes operational immediately upon its completion. In addition to linking many of the key cities, this project also calls for the construction of access points along the route which will provide access to the backbone for the other cities and provinces not directly on the backbone route. Those access routes for other cities and provinces will be taken up separately.

The fiber route will follow the main road system in the country and will consist of a main loop from Kabul – Kandahar – Herat – Mazar – Kabul. There will be other major spurs off this main loop connecting to neighboring countries Iran, Pakistan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, and Turkmenistan.



This project will be a major capital for the coming generation of the country and will ensure fast service delivery of IT and telecom at a low and trustable price .This will speed up development of ICT in the country .This is to be said that a remarkable amount of income will be obtained through transit telecom.

### **Project Benefits**

This project will install a national, high-quality backbone network across the country, which will support all the other projects (digital lines, VSAT, microwave, etc). It will allow a high volume of national and international traffic and will connect major provinces and to neighboring countries (6 links). The objectives and benefits of the project will include:

- A financially viable, future safe backbone network, open to all operators in a short time frame.
- Immediate connectivity to all cities, provinces and districts along the ring, with link capabilities to expand by extending spurs from these access points to other “off backbone” districts. The extension spurs will be part of a future project.
- A backbone network that has maximum reliability and survivability in a potentially hostile climate.
- Bridging the region’s missing links to become the region’s digital Silk Road of the 21st century.
- Facilitating increase of private sector investment, and greatly enhancing the economic potential of Afghanistan.
- Provision of gainful employment for the Afghan people to build and operate the network.
- Improving quality and traffic capability of national communications network and international connections to neighboring countries.

### **Project Cost and Funding:**

**Starting Date:** 2006  
**Ending Date:** 2008  
**Required Budget:** 64.5 million USD  
**Funding Agency:** MoF (Government of Afghanistan)

For more information contact us by filling out our contact form

<http://www.mcit.gov.af/contactus.asp>

Ministry of Communications and Information Technology

Kabul, Afghanistan

www.mcit.gov.af