



Unrestricted, Dark Fibre, WAN Provision

The use, and provision of, unlimited bandwidth fibre optic networks utilising both new build in the public highway and existing fibre from 3rd party operators.





Overview

When we refer to Dark Fibre, we mean the provision of fibre between two or more locations which does not have any equipment attached to it. It is then up to you, or us, to attach whichever network vendor's equipment you choose.

Because you can choose your own equipment, the speed of the service is up to you – if you wish to run the link at 10GBps from day one, then you can.

Dark Fibre can be installed into a new duct in the public highway, attached to an existing 3rd party carrier's fibre, or cross land owned by you.

What does LinchPin provide?

We provide a number of services which all contribute to the completion of a link. These include:

- Initial Estimate
- Site Survey
- Discussion with Local Authority
- License Applications
- Duct Installation
- Fibre Installation
- Termination & Test of Fibre
- Provision of as-built drawings
- Subsequent maintenance, if necessary

Licensing & Standards

Licensing is arranged by LinchPin Networks on your behalf.

In a nutshell, a license is required to install the duct into the public highway – this ensures the duct is installed to a recognised standard and is warranted by the installer (LinchPin or its contractor) for 2 years. Part of this process is to meet with the Local Authority and discuss the provision with them.

In order to run the network no licenses are required. Further information on this can be supplied by us, or is available on the Ofcom website.

All ducts are installed to New Roads and Street Works Act (NRSWA) standards. This is standard industry practice and ensures ducts are at the correct depths and reinstatement is correct. This also ensures that subsequent contractors know what to expect when working in the same area.





What are the advantages of Dark Fibre?

Generally speaking, the alternative to dark fibre is a more traditional leased line approach where amounts of bandwidth are rented from a 3rd party carrier; for example, 10Mbps, 100Mbps, 1GBps or lower speed DSL services. The charges for these services are annual and continual.

The main differences are as follows:

- Unrestricted Bandwidth and Application
- The cost does not increase as bandwidth does
- No effect on Quality of Service
- Extremely low latency
- Payments can be tailored and have a finish point, after which the service is free
- Routes can be chosen and tailored by you
- Multiple fibres can be installed to future proof the network

How much does it all cost?

Over shorter distances the costs of installing a new dark fibre network can be very attractive, especially if higher bandwidths are required.

It is, however, quite difficult to give an accurate comparison between leased lines and dark fibre without knowing exactly where the connections are required. For example, different surfaces (carriageway, footway, and verge) have dramatically different costs associated with them.

All we require is the postcode of each end to give an estimate.

Payment profiles can be adjusted to suit. You may prefer to spread the payments over a period of a few years, or simply pay one lump sum at the end of the install.

Using a 3rd Party Carrier

For longer distances it is possible to utilise fibre already installed. Some carriers are quite happy to provide dark fibre to which we can then build. This approach can provide links of almost any distance.





Maintenance and Ongoing Support

Maintenance can be provided as an annually charged service, similar to a leased line, guaranteeing a certain level of service.

However, it is perfectly possible to have no ongoing costs at all. In the event the fibre is damaged we will attend site within 4-6 Hours and fix the problem. We then charge you for the repair which can be re-claimed from the 3rd party that damaged the fibre.

Either way provision of dark fibre is a very resilient service, especially as the duct is your own and not being worked on by other carriers for other customers.



A typical re-instated duct and turning chamber, recently completed by LinchPin.

About LinchPin

LinchPin Networks Ltd are a specialist in the provision of wide area networks, or of products and services designed to improve the performance of a WAN you already have.

For more information, including case studies, visit www.linchpinnetworks.co.uk

