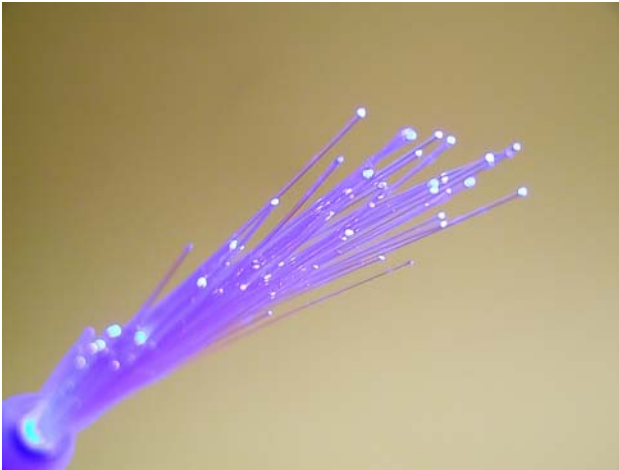


## About Fibre Optic Technology



*Fibre-optic cables consist of bundles of hair-thin glass strands. The fibre electronics convert electrical signals to laser-generated pulses of light that transmit voice, data and video signals.*

- Fibre optic technology is recognized in the telecommunications industry as the way of the future. Fibre-to-the-Home will be a \$3.2 billion market in the U.S. by 2009 according to some North American industry analysts. It is estimated that telecommunications will represent 70% of the U.S. FTTH market by 2009.
- Fibre-optic cables consist of bundles of hair-thin glass strands. The fibre electronics convert electrical signals to laser-generated pulses of light that transmit voice, data and video signals via the fibre at speeds and capacities exceeding copper-cable systems.
- Fibre-optic systems have been used in telecom networks for years, but primarily in the long-haul or inter-city networks, as well as directly connecting some large-business customers that have heavy data transfer needs.
- Fibre technology provides nearly unlimited bandwidth, providing Aliant with the capability to carry high bandwidth services such as 10Megabit Internet, and once available, Video and VoIP.
- Fibre is easier to maintain than traditional copper-based systems. The optical devices at the customer premise can be remotely accessed via a management system to proactively diagnose network performance and manage upgrades and customer services.