



Dear Readers,

Fibre-optic technology is gaining momentum all the time, and one thing is for sure: Sooner rather than later it will become the new standard. It was several years ago when TELE-audiovision introduced you to fibre-optic LNBs whose signals were no longer distributed via coax cable but through optical waveguides. Why? Because fibre-optic distribution did away with limitations on the length of cables and the number of distribution points. And then there was the mother of all benefits: Each user had the full-bandwidth satellite signal at their disposal at all times.

This issue of TELE-audiovision looks at the next generation of optical distribution systems, which allows conventional LNBs (with coax outputs) to be integrated, or existing distribution setups to be replaced or extended with fibre-optic lines. So to tell you the truth, the coax age is drawing to a close. And it's easy to see why: Coax technology is faced with issues such as signal attenuation, which – to make matters worse – also depends on the signal frequency. The higher the frequency, the higher the attenuation. With fibre-optic technology, on the other hand, you couldn't care less about those matters. Even though signal attenuation does occur, it is marginal and

does not interrelate with the frequency of the lightwave.

In the end, satellite signal distribution technology follows the same path as almost every aspect of our lives: We're aiming for absolute abundance. It seems all restrictions are slowly being eliminated, or at least boundaries are being pushed. Not only do we have an almost unthinkable number of channels, we can now also distribute each and any of them to an almost endless number of consumers. So where does it all stop? Certainly not with the available technology, but with every single individual and their conscious choice of which channel to watch. And speaking of that, let's never forget one other thing: Each device has an OFF button, and it's there for a reason...

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