

2.5 Securing Competition – The possibility of a further licensee

For in-building cabling the use of a multi-fibre cable is mandated to satisfy the requirement for competition on the one hand and to optimizing investments on the other hand. At least one dedicated fibre from each competing operator's OLT accesses each home. Additional spare capacity shall be foreseen which eventually can be used for a possible new licensee in the future.

In an Ethernet (ptp) architecture, the operators connect their OLTs/Fibre switches directly to the dedicated fibres allocated to them.

In the GPON (ptmp) architecture, while connecting villas, all operators provide their own GPON splitter, co-locating them in a common location (e.g. Meet-Me- Room). In case of connecting buildings through GPON architecture, it is the developer or building owners' responsibility to supply and install the required splitters inside the Main Telecom for each competing operators In addition, operators provide their own feeder fibre connecting the OLT to the splitter. In the unit of the end user a consolidation cabinet shall at least be able to house 2 ONTs in parallel.

Therefore, each operator has its own dedicated end-to-end FTTx network with full service delivery control.

This scheme allows for seamless service provisioning without necessary intervention in the building in case of an end user switches his contract from one service provider to the other. It even is possible to derive services from both (respectively more) operators in parallel. In case of more than two licensees the user has to choose which (max) two operators should be installed in the home/office consolidation cabinet as they can hold in any case the ONT/CPEs of two operators in parallel. However, this does not mean that there can't be a third operator used in parallel because an installation outside of the cabinet can be envisaged. This hassle-free choice for the end user will stimulate competition on the level of service delivery performance.

The dimensioning of required spaces for the telecommunication equipment satisfying the above scheme need to be optimized through sharing.

With sharing of rooms, floor spaces, ducts, cable trays, racks and cables the cost impact of parallel GPON network infrastructure elements (especially the splitters) is regarded overall as marginal.

The foreseen MTR room sizes in this manual already cater for the need of a possible third licensee. That means that already with this manual sufficient rack space is foreseen to introduce a third licensee without the need of any change to this manual. The same holds true as already outlined above for the cabling itself.

2.6 Licensees du and Etisalat

For the time being there are two licensees providing telecommunication networks and services in the UAE: Etisalat and du. Therefore, the following planning guidelines are based on this situation taking into account possible further competition through a third licensee, international best practices and common approaches.