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Recommendation

ITU-T L.109 (01/2024)

SERIES L: Environment and ICTs, climate change, e-waste, energy efficiency; construction, installation and protection of cables and other elements of outside plant

Optical fibre cables – Cable structure and characteristics

Construction of optical/metallic hybrid cables

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Recommendation ITU-T L.109

Construction of optical/metallic hybrid cables

Summary

Recommendation ITU-T L.109 describes cable construction and provides guidance for the use of optical/metallic hybrid cables, which contains both optical fibres and metallic wires for telecommunication and/or power feeding. Technical requirements may differ according to the installation environment. Environmental issues and test methods for cable characteristics are described in other L-series Recommendations.

History *

Edition	Recommendation	Approval	Study Group	Unique ID
1.0	ITU-T L.109/L.60	2004-09-06	6	11.1002/1000/7394
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Keywords

Cables, DAS, FTTA, hybrid cable, optical/metallic hybrid cable.

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Construction of optical/metallic hybrid cables

1 Scope

This Recommendation describes cables containing both optical fibres and metallic wires and covers the following aspects.

– Optical/metallic hybrid cables for communications systems;
– Construction of optical/metallic hybrid cables. The optical fibre dimensional and transmission characteristics should comply with [ITU-T G.652], [ITU-T G.653], [ITU- T G.654], [ITU-T G.655], [ITU-T G.656], [ITU-T G.657] and [IEC 60793-2-10]. Dimensional and transmission characteristics of metallic wires and coaxial units for telecommunication applications and systems should comply with [b-ITU-T TR-OFCS];
– Cables designed for outdoor, indoor, or indoor-outdoor use: fibre-to-the-antenna (FTTA) or distributed antenna systems (DAS) cables are examples of such hybrid cables;
– Cables for limited powering applications found in communications systems.
– A recommendation that an optical/metallic hybrid cable should be provided with cable-end sealing and protection during cable delivery and storage, as is usual for metallic or optical cables. If splicing components have been factory installed, they should be adequately protected;
– A recommendation that pulling devices can be fitted to the end of the cable if required.

Three types of optical/metallic hybrid cable are considered in this Recommendation according to the usage of the metallic wires, such as Type I: communication only, Type II: power feeding only, and Type III: both power feeding and communication.

Individual requirements for Type II optical/metallic hybrid cable which supports a bit rate up to 1 Gb/s or beyond can be found in [ITU-T L.109.1].

2 References

The following ITU-T Recommendations and other references contain provisions which, through reference in this text, constitute provisions of this Recommendation. At the time of publication, the editions indicated were valid. All Recommendations and other references are subject to revision; users of this Recommendation are therefore encouraged to investigate the possibility of applying the most recent edition of the Recommendations and other references listed below. A list of the currently valid ITU-T Recommendations is regularly published. The reference to a document within this Recommendation does not give it, as a stand-alone document, the status of a Recommendation.

[ITU-T G.650.1] Recommendation ITU-T G.650.1 (2024), *Definitions and test methods for linear, deterministic attributes of single-mode fibre and cable*.

[ITU-T G.650.2] Recommendation ITU-T G.650.2 (2015), *Definitions and test methods for statistical and non-linear related attributes of single-mode fibre and cable*.

[ITU-T G.652] Recommendation ITU-T G.652 (2016), *Characteristics of a single-mode optical fibre and cable*.

[ITU-T G.653] Recommendation ITU-T G.653 (2010), *Characteristics of a dispersion-shifted, single-mode optical fibre and cable*.

[ITU-T G.654] Recommendation ITU-T G.654 (2020), *Characteristics of a cut-off shifted single-mode optical fibre and cable*.

[ITU-T G.655] Recommendation ITU-T G.655 (2009), *Characteristics of a non-zero dispersion-shifted single-mode optical fibre and cable*.

[ITU-T G.656] Recommendation ITU-T G.656 (2010), *Characteristics of a fibre and cable with non-zero dispersion for wideband optical transport*.

[ITU-T G.657] Recommendation ITU-T G.657 (2016), *Characteristics of a bending-loss insensitive single-mode optical fibre and cable.*

[ITU-T L.100] Recommendation ITU-T L.100/L.10 (2024), *Optical fibre cables for duct and tunnel application*.

[ITU-T L.101] Recommendation ITU-T L.101/L.43 (2015), *Optical fibre cables for buried application*.

[ITU-T L.102] Recommendation ITU-T L.102/L.26 (2015), *Optical fibre cables for aerial application*.

[ITU-T L.103] Recommendation ITU-T L.103 (2016), *Optical fibre cables for indoor applications*.

[ITU-T L.109.1] Recommendation ITU-T L.109.1 (2022), *Type II optical/electrical hybrid cables for access points and other terminal equipment*.

[IEC 60227-1] IEC 60227-1 (2024), *Polyvinyl chloride insulated cables of rated* voltages *up to and including 450/750 V – Part 1: General requirements*.

[IEC 60228] IEC 60228:2004, *Conductors of insulated cables*.

[IEC 60502-1] IEC 60502-1:2021, *Power cables with extruded insulation and their accessories for rated voltages from 1 kV (*U_m *= 1,2 kV) up to 30 kV (*U_m *= 36 kV) – Part 1: Cables for rated voltages of 1 kV (*U_m *= 1,2 kV) and 3 kV (*U_m *= 3,6 kV).*

[IEC 60793-2-10] IEC 60793-2-10:2019+AMD1:2022 CSV Consolidated version, *Optical fibres – Part 2-10: Product specifications – Sectional specification for category A1 multimode fibres*.

[IEC 60794-1-21] IEC 60794-1-21:2015+AMD1:2020 CSV Consolidated version, *Optical fibre cables – Part 1-21: Generic specification – Basic optical cable test procedures – Mechanical test methods*.

[IEC 60794-1-22] IEC 60794-1-22:2017, *Optical fibre cables – Part 1-22: Generic specification – Basic optical cable test procedures – Environmental test methods.*

[IEC 60794-1-23] IEC 60794-1-23:2019, *Optical fibre cables – Part 1-23: Generic specification – Basic optical cable test procedures – Cable element test methods.*

[IEC 60794-2] IEC 60794-2:2017, *Optical fibre cables – Part 2: Indoor cables – Sectional specification*.

[IEC 60794-3] IEC 60794-3:2022, *Optical fibre cables – Part 3: Outdoor cables – Sectional specification*.

[IEC 61156-1] IEC 61156-1:2023, *Multicore and symmetrical pair/quad cables for digital communications – Part 1: Generic specification*.

[IEC 61196-1-10x] IEC 61196-1-10x-series (2022), *Coaxial communication cables* – Parts 1-100 to 1- 109: *Electrical test methods* series.

[IEC 61156-2-1] IEC 61156-2-1:2010, *Multicore and symmetrical pair/quad cables for digital communications – Part 2-1: Horizontal floor wiring – Blank detail specification*.

[IEC 62807-1] IEC 62807-1:2017, Hybrid *telecommunication cables – Part 1: Generic specification*.

[IEC TR 62222] IEC TR 62222:2021, *Fire performance of communication cables installed in buildings*.

3 Definitions

3.1 Terms defined elsewhere

For the purposes of this Recommendation, the definitions given in [ITU-T G.650.1], [ITU-T G.650.2], and [ITU-T L.102] apply.

3.2 Terms defined in this Recommendation

None.

4 Abbreviations and acronyms

This Recommendation uses the following abbreviations and acronyms:

BBU Baseband Unit

DAS Distributed Antenna Systems

DBS Distributed Base Station

ELFEXT Equal Level of Far-End crosstalk

FEXT Far-End Crosstalk

FRP Fibre-Reinforced Plastic

FTTA Fibre-To-The-Antenna

NEXT Near-End Crosstalk

PE Polyethylene

PSNEXT Power Sum Of Near-End Crosstalk

PVC Polyvinyl Chloride

RRH Remote Radio Head

RRU Remote Radio Unit

5 Conventions

None.

6 Optical/metallic hybrid cable construction

This Recommendation deals with three types of optical/metallic hybrid cables as shown in Table 1.

Table 1 – Contents of each cable type

Cable type	Optical fibres	Metallic wires for telecommunication	Metallic wires for power feeding
Type I	Contained	Contained	Not contained
Type II	Contained	Not contained	Contained
Type III	Contained	Contained	Contained

Type I can be used for optical transmission and electric transmission carrying analogue or digital signals. Type II can be used for optical transmission and power feeding. Type III can be used for optical transmission, electric transmission carrying analogue or digital signals and power feeding.

There are several methods to contain the media in a cable. One is to strand each medium fabricated cylindrically (with or without other materials) around a central member. Second is to arrange all media in a round way (without a central member) and put a round sheath over it. Third is to insert media into slots of a slotted core as described in clause 6.2.7. Alternatively, flat or oval configurations meeting this intent may be used.

NOTE – Individual requirements for Type II optical/metallic hybrid cable which supports a bit rate up to 1 Gb/s or beyond can be found in [ITU-T L.109.1].

6.1 Characteristics of each medium

6.1.1 Optical fibre

Optical fibres described in [ITU-T G.652], [ITU-T G.653], [ITU-T G.654], [ITU-T G.655], [ITU-T G.656], [ITU-T G.657] and [IEC 60793-2-10] should be used, depending on the circumstances and technical requirements.

Optical fibre cable elements described in [IEC 60794-2] and [IEC 60794-3] should be used, depending on the circumstances and technical requirements.

6.1.2 Metallic wires for telecommunication

6.1.2.1 Symmetrical metallic pair

The electrical and transmission characteristics of a symmetrical pair or pairs for communication should comply with those agreed between the manufacturer and the user. The following items should be agreed upon:

- maximum conductor direct current resistance;
- maximum conductor direct current resistance unbalance of the pair;
- mutual capacitance;
- capacitance unbalance;
- attenuation (insertion loss);
- near-end crosstalk (NEXT);
- power sum of near-end crosstalk (PSNEXT);
- far-end crosstalk (FEXT);
- equal level of far-end crosstalk (ELFEXT);
- impedance;
- return loss;
- insulation resistance;
- any other parameter to be agreed between the manufacturer and the user.

The mechanical and the environmental characteristics should comply with [IEC 61156-2-1] unless there is a different agreement between the manufacturer and the user.

6.1.2.2 Coaxial conductors

The electrical and transmission characteristics of coaxial conductors for communication should comply with those agreed between the manufacturer and the user. The following items should be agreed upon:

- characteristic impedance;
- conductor resistance;
- attenuation;
- velocity ratio;
- return loss;
- insulation resistance;
- withstand voltage of dielectric;
- any other parameter to be agreed between the manufacturer and the user.

The mechanical and the environmental characteristics should be agreed upon between the manufacturer and the user.

6.1.3 Power-feeding wires

The conductor characteristics of the copper wire should comply with [IEC 60228] unless there is a different agreement between the manufacturer and the user. The insulation characteristic of the copper wire should comply with [IEC 60502-1] or [IEC 60227-1] standard requirements, unless there is a different agreement between the manufacturer and the user.

The cross-section of the metallic wire should be designed according to the transmission voltage, transmission distance and the power consumption. Under extreme operating conditions, the heat generated by the conductors should not make the cable temperature exceed the maximum allowed temperature in detailed specifications of the cable element materials.

Conductors and insulation materials for power-feeding wires should be specified in detail.

6.2 Cable element

The make-up of the cable core in particular the number of fibres, the method of protection and identification, the location of strength members and metallic wires or pairs, if required, should be clearly specified. Designs other than those described in clauses 6.2.1 to 6.2.16 may be used, provided that they comply with the aims of this Recommendation.

6.2.1 Tight secondary coating or buffer

If a tight secondary coating is required, it should consist of one or more layers of polymeric material. The coating should be easily removable for fibre splicing. For tight buffers, the buffer and fibre primary coating should be removable in one operation over a length depending on the customer's requirements. The nominal overall diameter of the tight secondary coating is typically 800/900 μm.

In fibre-to-the-antenna (FTTA) applications, tight buffered fibres can be used. Spiral stainless steel tubes can be used to protect and gather those buffered fibres.

6.2.2 Loose tube

A loose tube construction or a loose tube cable is frequently used to protect and gather optical fibres or fibre ribbons. Water blocking material may be contained in the tube if required for the application.

6.2.3 Micromodule

A micromodule is a thin-walled tubing unit. These flexible modules have bending radii similar to the unbundled fibre and are easy to strip without a tool for easy splice preparation and mid-span access. They have no shape memory and may be used directly in an enclosure up to the splicing tray. A water-blocking material may be contained in the micro-module, if required. See Figure 1.

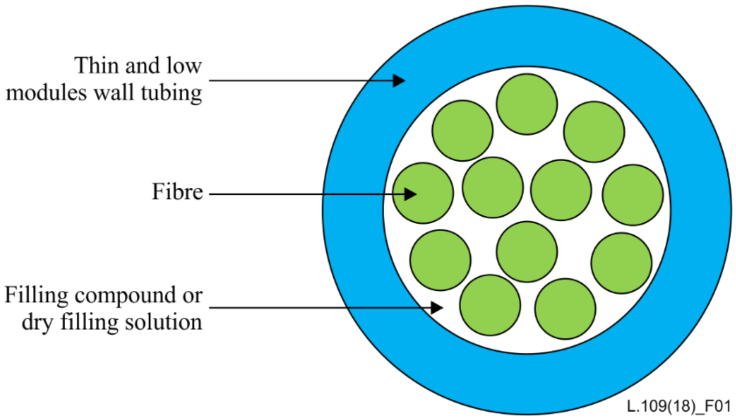

Figure 1 – Example of primary coated fibres protected by micro-module

6.2.4 Symmetrical pair unit

A symmetrical pair unit contains stranded metallic pairs. It is fabricated cylindrically with or without additional suitable material. Its diameter is similar to that of a loose tube. When a screen is required over the symmetrical pair, it may consist of the following:

a) an aluminium tape laminated to a plastic tape;

b) an aluminium tape laminated to a plastic tape and a metal-coated or plain drain copper wire which the metal tape is in contact with;

c) metallic braid;

d) an aluminium tape laminated to a plastic tape and a metallic braid.

6.2.5 Coaxial unit

A coaxial unit contains a pair of coaxial inner and outer conductors or two pairs of coaxial conductors which can form a differential line pair. The coaxial unit is fabricated cylindrically with or without additional suitable materials in order to have a diameter similar to that of a loose tube.

6.2.6 Power-feeding wire unit

A power-feeding wire unit contains power-feeding wire(s) and is fabricated cylindrically with or without suitable material.

6.2.7 Slotted core

In order to avoid direct pressure on optical fibres from the outside of the cable, optical fibres or ribbon fibres may be located in slots. Usually, slots are provided in a helical or SZ configuration stranded around a cylindrical rod. The slotted core usually contains a strength member (metallic or non-metallic). The strength member should adhere tightly to the slotted core in order to obtain temperature stability and avoid separation when a pulling force is applied during installation.

6.2.8 Strength member

The cable should be designed with strength member(s) suitable to meet the installation and service conditions such that the fibre is not subjected to strain levels in excess of those agreed upon between the manufacturer and the user. The strength member(s) may be either metallic or non-metallic.

In FTTA applications, it is recommended that non-metallic strength members be used, e.g., aramid yarns, glass fibre-reinforced plastic (FRP) rods or other suitable fibre reinforced materials. For stranded core structures, FRP rods should be laid in the centre of the core. Other types of strength members can be placed in suitable positions according to the hybrid cable structure.

6.2.9 Filler (optional)

If necessary, fillers can be used with a similar outer diameter to the loose tubes. They can be in the form of a circular plastic rod with a smooth surface.

6.2.10 Water blocking material (optional)

Filling a cable with water-blocking material or wrapping the cable core with layers of water swellable material are two means of protecting fibres from water ingress. A water-blocking element (filling compound, tapes or yarns, water swelling powder, or combination of materials) may be used. Any materials used should not be harmful to personnel. The materials in the cable should be compatible with each other and, in particular, should not adversely affect the fibre characteristics. These materials should not hinder splicing or connection operations.

6.2.11 Ripcord (optional)

A ripcord can be used. It should be non-hygroscopic, non-oil absorbing and have enough strength to strip the cable sheath.

6.2.12 Inner sheath (optional)

If required, an inner sheath over the cable core and beneath the outer sheath with an optional armouring layer and shielding layer can be used. In indoor and indoor-outdoor applications, the material of the inner sheath can be fire retardant for fire safety reasons depending on the local regulations.

6.2.13 Screen of the cable core (optional)

When electromagnetic compatibility or lightning proofing is required, a screen can be added over the cable core. In FTTA applications, the screen is able to reduce the current level induced by lightning and minimize the electromagnetic noise induced by the current. The screen may consist of a single or double metal tape layers (or foil), single or double metal braid layers or a combined structure of metal braid and metal tape (or foil). A drain wire in contact with the metal shield layers can be used. A metallic sheath or continuous metal armouring layer can also act as the screen of the cable core.

6.2.14 Armouring layer (optional)

In particular, in applications where better mechanical performance is required, an armouring layer can be added over the cable core or directly over the optical fibre unit. Armouring material can be metallic or non-metallic.

6.2.15 Outer sheath

The cable core should be covered with a sheath or sheaths suitable for the environmental and mechanical conditions associated with storage, installation and operation. The sheath may be of a composite construction and may include strength members.

Sheath considerations for optical fibre cables are generally the same as for metallic conductor cables. Consideration should also be given to the amount of hydrogen generated from a metallic moisture barrier. The minimum acceptable thickness of the sheath should be stated, together with any maximum and minimum allowable overall cable diameter.

Selection of sheath material is one of the important issues to be considered in order, for example, to ensure stability under the environmental conditions of installation and to satisfy fire safety requirements. Polyethylene (PE), polyvinyl chloride (PVC) and thermoplastic polyurethane are typically used as cable sheath materials for outdoor cables. Fire-retardant sheath materials may vary for indoor or indoor-outdoor cables for fire safety reasons depending on the local regulations.

The electrical tracking resistance of sheath materials may be an issue for Type II and Type III cables. In FTTA and other outdoor applications, the outer sheath of the hybrid cable should be able to resist ultraviolet rays and heat shock. Ultraviolet shielding is commonly provided by a UV-stabilized weather resistant material containing a minimum of 2.0% by mass of well-dispersed carbon black.

6.2.16 Cable and cable elements marking

Hybrid cable and cable units containing optical fibres and power-feeding units should be clearly coded in order to indicate that dangerous current flows through them and distinguish one type of unit from another.

6.3 Mechanical characteristics

Unless there is a different agreement between the manufacturer and the user, an optical/metallic hybrid cable should have the mechanical characteristics specified in [ITU-T L.100], [ITU-T L.101], [ITU-T L.102] or [ITU-T L.103] and [IEC 62807-1] depending on the installation environment.

6.4 Environmental conditions

Unless there is a different agreement between the manufacturer and the user, an optical/metallic hybrid cable should meet the environmental conditions specified in [ITU-T L.100], [ITU-T L.101], [ITU-T L.102] or [ITU-T L.103] and [IEC 62807-1] depending on the installation environment.

6.5 Fire safety

Requirements for fire performance in different applications may differ in each country. Optical/metallic hybrid cables should meet fire safety regulations in each country or in accordance with each telecommunication carrier. [IEC TR 62222] should be considered if there are no fire safety specifications provided.

6.6 Electrical characteristics and electromagnetic compatibility

If required, electrical characteristics and electromagnetic compatibility requirements should be agreed between the manufacturer and user, depending on different applications, including transfer impedance and coupling attenuation of screens of metallic units and the overall screen of cable. The lightning and electrical continuity characteristics should be referred to [ITU-T L.100].

7 Test methods

Unless there is a different agreement between the manufacturer and user, an optical/metallic hybrid cable should be evaluated by the test methods specified in [ITU-T L.100], [ITU-T L.101], [ITU-T L.102] or [ITU-T L.103] and [IEC 62807-1] depending on the installation environment.

7.1 Mechanical test methods

Mechanical tests should comply with [IEC 60794-1-21].

7.2 Environmental test methods

Environmental tests should comply with [IEC 60794-1-22].

7.3 Cable element test methods

Cable element test methods should comply with [IEC 60794-1-23].

7.4 Electrical characteristic test methods

Electrical characteristics should include voltage test, insulation resistance, conductor resistance of power-feeding wires and electrical characteristics of symmetrical metallic pairs listed in clause 6.1.2. Test methods of voltage test, insulation resistance and conductor resistance of power-feeding wires should comply with [IEC 60502-1] or [IEC 60227-1]. Test methods for electrical characteristics of symmetrical pairs should comply with [IEC 61156-1]. Test methods for electrical characteristics of coaxial units should comply with documents in the series [IEC 61196-1-10x].

7.5 Transmission characteristic test methods

Test methods for transmission characteristics of symmetrical pairs listed in clause 6.1.2 should comply with [IEC 61156-1]. Test methods for transmission characteristics of coaxial units should comply with documents in the series [IEC 61196-1-10x].

7.6 Electromagnetic compatibility

Test methods for transfer impedance and coupling attenuation should comply with [IEC 61156-1].

Appendix I

Chinese experience

(This appendix does not form an integral part of this Recommendation.)

I.1 Introduction

Optical and metal hybrid cables are developing quickly in the access network. The cable is used not only for optical signals, but also for digital signals to be transmitted and for the power needed to feed active equipment. Wireless remote radio technology is becoming one of the most important technologies in fibre to the home (FTTH). A wireless remote radio system always contains a baseband unit (BBU) and a remote radio unit (RRU). Hybrid cables containing both optical and copper units have been adopted to connect BBU and RRU for several years, since they can transmit optical signals and power simultaneously with such advantages as low cost and easy installation.

I.2 Cable structure

This Appendix presents three main types of optical fibre/stranded copper hybrid cables used in different access network application environments. Each type has been successfully installed in the access network in the People's Republic of China (PRC).

Three main optical/metallic hybrid cables are shown in Figure I.1 to Figure I.3.

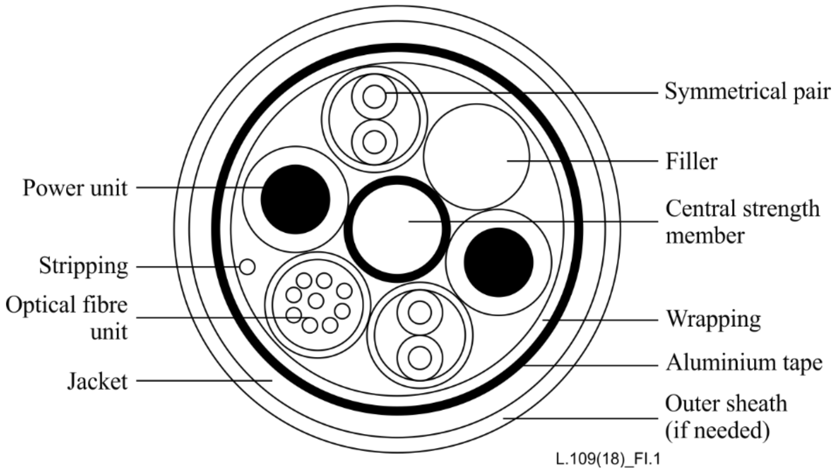

Figure I.1 – The typical optical/metallic hybrid cable structure (Type III hybrid cable)

This hybrid cable type is:

– optical fibre/symmetrical pair units for optical/data signal transmission;

– optical fibre/stranded copper wire units for optical signal transmission and power feeding to the active equipment;

– optical fibre/symmetrical pair/stranded copper wire hybrid cable for optical/data signal transmission and power feeding to the active equipment.

The transmission distance of the optical fibre/stranded copper hybrid cables mentioned in the previous clause should meet customer needs; normally the distance covered is from 100 m to 3 000 m.

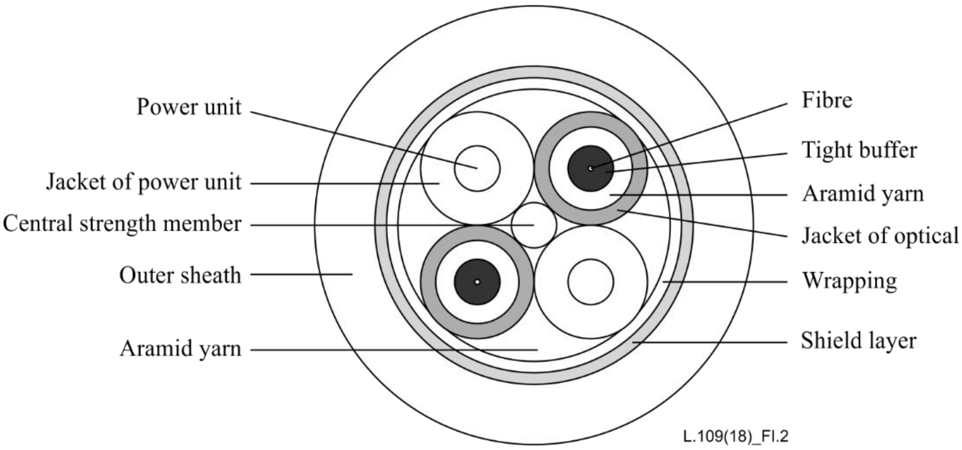

Figure I.2 – Example of a hybrid optical cable with a tight-buffer optical unit and a power unit

This hybrid cable type is:

– optical fibre/stranded copper wire units for optical signal transmission and power feeding to the active equipment;

– optical fibre buffered by a tight material to be easily connected or terminated conveniently.

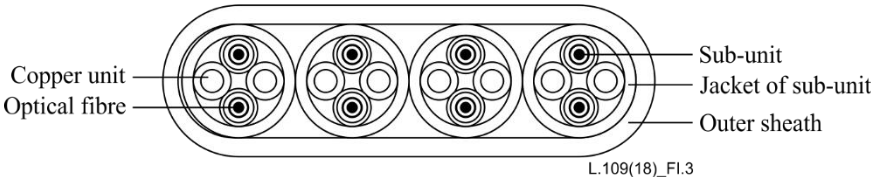

Figure I.3 – Example of a hybrid optical cable with a wireless remote radio unit

This hybrid cable type is:

– four sub-units composed of two single core optical fibre indoor cables and two copper wires;

– usually used for optical signal transmission and power feeding to the active equipment in a wireless remote system.

I.3 Requirements

I.3.1 Optical fibre

The optical fibres should comply with [b-ITU-T G.651.1], [ITU-T G.652] and [ITU-T G.657] requirements. The number of optical fibres ranges from two to 24 cores or according to the customer need.

I.3.2 Symmetrical pair

The symmetrical pair has 100 Ω resistance. The mechanical and environmental characteristics comply with those specified in [IEC 61156-2-1] and the electrical characteristics are shown in Tables I.1 to I.7. Symmetrical pair identification is shown in Table I.8.

Table I.1 – Electrical characteristics of 100 Ω symmetrical pair (20° C)

Item		Unit	Normative diameter of the conductor	
			0.5 mm	**0.6 mm**
Conductor direct current resistance, maximum		Ω/100 m	9.5	6.58
Conductor direct current resistance unbalance of the pair, maximum		%	2.5	
Working capacitance, maximum	5, 5e	nF/100 m	5.6	

Table I.2 – Attenuation of 100 Ω symmetrical pair (20° C)

Symmetrical pair type	Conductor diameter (mm)	Frequency *f* (MHz)	Attenuation (dB/100 m)
5, 5e	0.5	1-100	$1.967\times\sqrt{f}+0.023\times f+\frac{0.050}{\sqrt{f}}$
5, 5e	0.6	1-100	$1.695\times\sqrt{f}+0.020\times f+\frac{0.040}{\sqrt{f}}$

Table I.3 – Near-end crosstalk (NEXT) of 100 Ω symmetrical pair

Symmetrical pair type	Frequency *f* (MHz)	NEXT (dB/100 m)
5	1-100	$62.3 - 15 \times \lg f$
5e	1-100	$65.3 - 15 \times \lg f$

Table I.4 – Power sum of near-end crosstalk (PSNEXT) of 100 Ω symmetrical pair

Symmetrical pair type	Symmetrical pair unit	Frequency *f* (MHz)	PSNEXT (dB/100 m)
5	Over 4	1-100	$62.3 - 15 \times \lg f$
5e	4	1-100	$62.3 - 15 \times \lg f$

Table I.5 – Characteristic impedance of 100 Ω symmetrical pair

Frequency (MHz)	Characteristic impedance (Ω)	
	5	**5e**
$f \geq 1$	100 ± 15	100 ± 15

Table I.6 – Minimum return loss (RL) of 100 Ω symmetrical pair

Type	Frequency *f* (MHz)				
	$1 \leq f \leq 10$	$10 < f \leq 16$	$16 < f \leq 20$	$20 < f \leq 100$	$100 < f \leq 250$
5	$17+3 \times \lg f$	20	20	$20 - 7 \times \lg(f/20)$	–
5e	$20+5 \times \lg f$	25	25	$25 - 7 \times \lg(f/20)$	–

Table I.7 – Minimum structure return loss (SRL) of 100 Ω symmetrical pair

Type	Frequency f (MHz)				
	$1 \le f \le 10$	$10 < f \le 16$	$16 < f \le 20$	$20 < f \le 100$	$100 < f \le 250$
5	23	23	23	$23 - 10 \times \lg(f/20)$	–
5e	28	28	28	$28 - 10 \times \lg(f/20)$	–

Table I.8 – Pair identification

Pair 1	Blue/white
Pair 2	Orange/white
Pair 3	Green/white
Pair 4	Brown/white

I.3.3 Power unit

The cross-section of a feeder conductor should be designed reasonably on the supply voltage, transmission distance and the power of the remote device. The inside temperature of the cable should significantly not increase during normal operating conditions.

The feeder conductor should use a soft single conductor non-sheathed cable. If needed, hard single conductor non-sheathed cable can be used. Its performance should comply with the relevant product standards.

The single conductor is usually an entire body within the cable length. It allows up to two joints in the cable length. The joint is connected by hot or cold welding. The tensile strength of the joint should not be less than 85% of the non-joint single entire body. Appropriate methods and materials should be adopted to repair joint insulation to meet the standard requirements for electrical performance.

Appendix II

Chinese experience on hybrid cable for mobile communications in an access network

(This appendix does not form an integral part of this Recommendation.)

II.1 Introduction

An integrated solution for a distributed base station via direct current (DC) remote power supply is proposed in this Appendix. Furthermore, the determination of the conductor cross-sectional area in the hybrid cable as well as the hybrid cable sample used in this case is also presented.

II.2 Background to the distributed base station

With the development of mobile communication technology, distributed base stations (DBSs) are widely used in the 3G/4G mobile communication network in China (PRC).

II.2.1 Traditional centralized base station

The traditional centralized base station locates the BBU and radio unit in a cabinet. This base station has the advantage of a large capacity, but also the disadvantages of inconvenience in network expansion, deployment and construction, as well as high cost and large loss. The specific structures can be divided into indoor and outdoor centralized base stations, which are illustrated in Figure II.1 and Figure II.2, respectively.

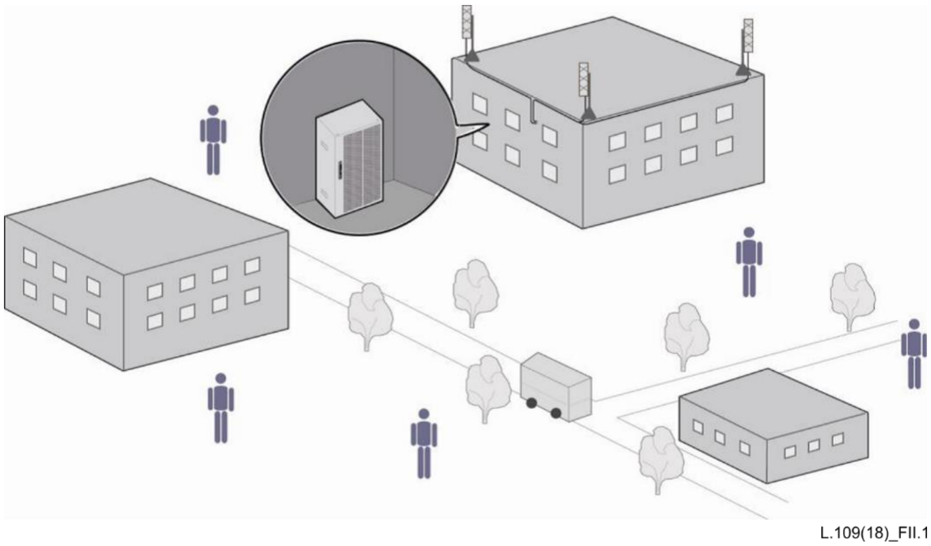

Figure II.1 – Indoor centralized base station

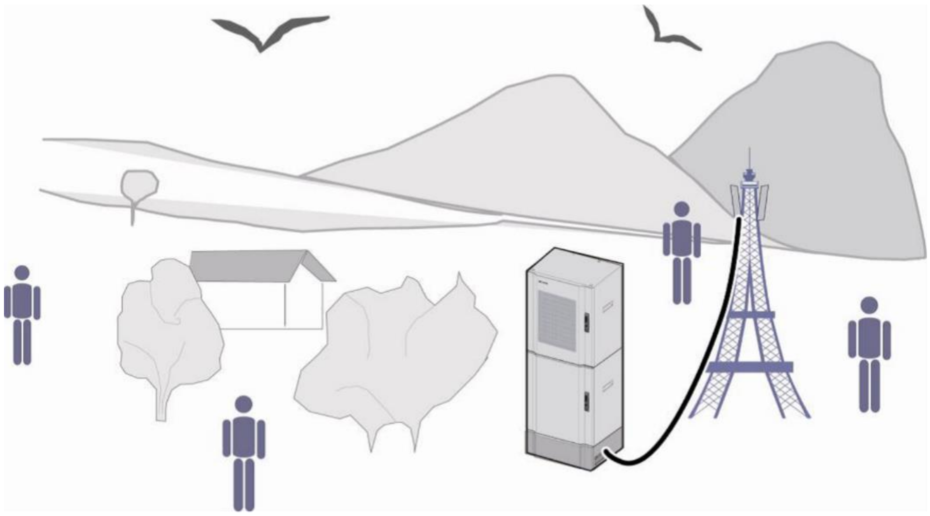

Figure II.2 – Outdoor centralized base station

II.2.2 First generation distributed base station

With the breakthrough of high integrated baseband processing technology, high-speed access technology and radio frequency remote technology, miniaturization and modularization of 3G base stations can be realized. The distributed base station based on radio frequency remote technology keeps the baseband part and RF part apart. The RRU is located near the antenna to handle wireless signals within base station coverage. The RRU processes and transfers the optical signal to the BBU via the optical fibres. The advantages of a separate modular design for the distributed base station include low cost, small size, deployment flexibility and convenience for network expansion, which is suitable for dense urban areas. A distributed base station is shown schematically in Figure II.3.

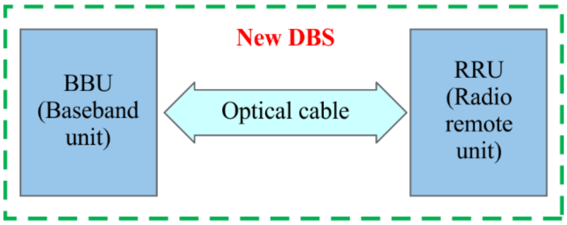

Figure II.3 – First generation distributed base station

II.2.3 Second generation distributed base station

The separate design for the BBU and RRU has many advantages, but also brings new challenges to the power supply for the RRU.

There are three solutions for RRU power supply for a distributed base station: DC remote power supply, independent AC power supply and independent power supply via solar energy. In this Appendix, an integrated solution based on a DC remote power supply, which is called a second generation distributed base station with a centralized power supply, is proposed and presented.

The second generation distributed base station is suitable for communication network coverage area with a guard-free base station and room-free base station in order to reduce costs during operation and maintenance, as shown in Figure II.4.

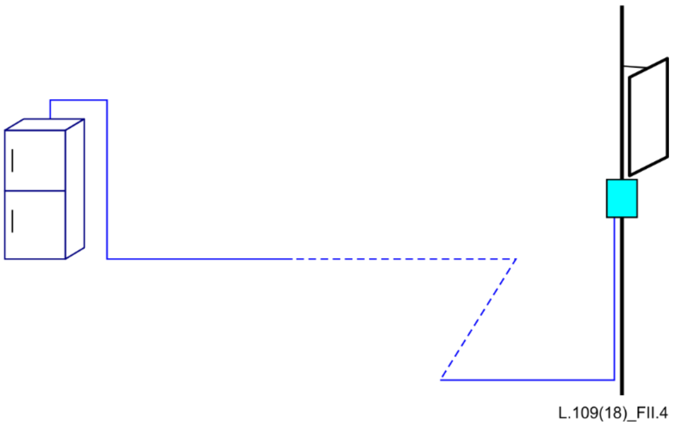

Figure II.4 – Second generation distributed base station

II.2.4 The topology of a distributed base station

With the large data flow in the 4G network, the frequency level of the base station increases, and the coverage radius of the base station is reduced. The network topology between the BBU and RRU for the distributed base station becomes more complicated. There are several types of network topology from BBU to RRU, such as P2P, star, chain, ring and mixture structures.

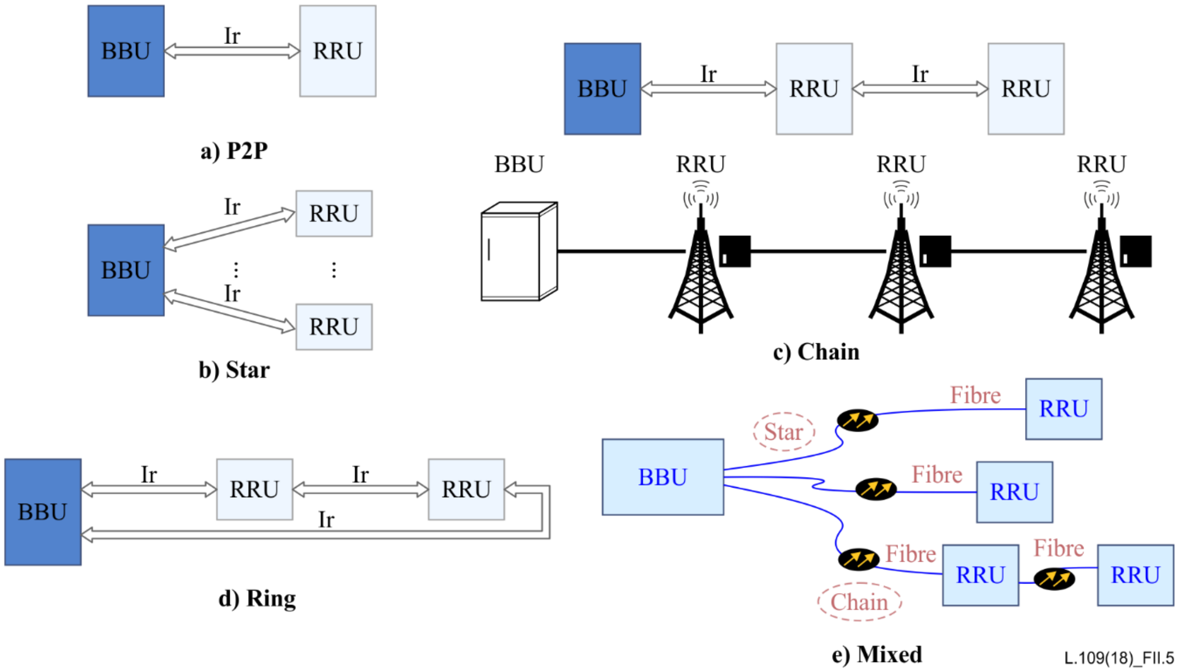

Figure II.5 – P2P, star, chain, ring, and mixture structures

II.3 The integrated solution of distributed base station via DC centralized remote power supply

II.3.1 DC remote power supply solution for DBS

The original "RRU DC remote power supply solution" has the advantages such as a simple structure and high reliability. However, because the DC power supply voltage is low, the transmitted current value is relatively large, which results in high costs due to the large size of power conductors. At the same time, the longer the transmission distance, larger the voltage drop and the power loss will occur. Therefore, this contribution provides a smart integrated solution which includes a DC booster located near the BBU to boost DC −48 V to 380 V or 350 V. Then the power module located near the RRU transforms 380 V or 350 V into −48 V for the power supply for RRU. The hybrid cable is used to connect the BBU with the RRU directly.

II.3.2 DC remote power supply unit of a distributed base station

The integrated solution of a DC remote power supply for DBS is shown schematically in Figure II.6.

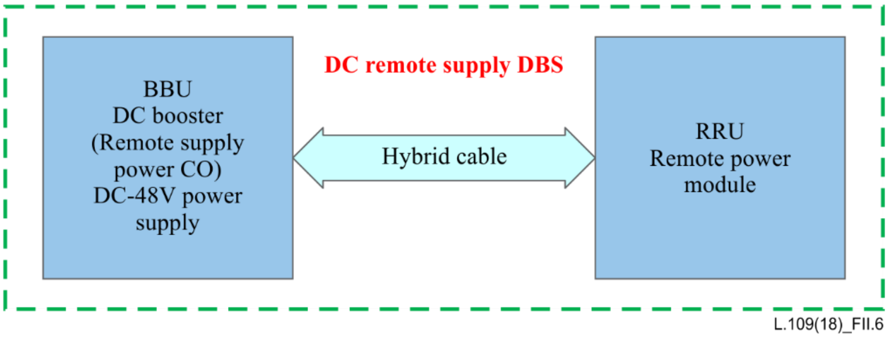

Figure II.6 – DC remote supply unit diagram of a distributed base station

II.3.3 Direct current remote power supply circuit diagram

The principle for DC remote power supply solution can be simplified as a circuit diagram as shown in Figure II.7, and the voltage drop on the conductor in the hybrid cable can be calculated as shown in equation (1), while the ring resistance of the conductor in hybrid cable can be calculated as shown in equation (2).

$$\Delta U = U_i - U_o = 2 \times L \times R_c = 2P \times R_c / U_o \quad (1)$$

$$R = R_c + R_c = 2 \times R_c = 2 \times (\rho \times \lambda_1 \times \lambda_2 \times l/A) \quad (2)$$

$$L = \lambda_3 U_i^2 / (4P * R) \quad (3)$$

Where,

- R denotes ring resistance
- U_i denotes input voltage after the DC booster
- U_o denotes output voltage for RRU
- L denotes remote distance of DBS
- R_c denotes resistance of the conductor
- ΔU denotes voltage drop on the conductor
- ρ denotes resistivity ($\Omega \cdot mm^2/m$)
- l denotes conductor length (m)
- A denotes nominal area of the conductor (mm^2)
- P denotes rated power of RRU (W)
- λ_1 denotes stranding ratio, usually 1.0133
- λ_2 denotes safety margin, usually 1.03-1.15
- λ_3 denotes transfer efficiency for remote equipment power, usually 0.80-0.90

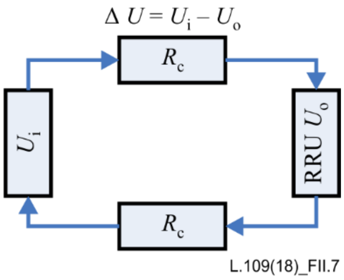

Figure II.7 – Direct current remote power supply circuit diagram

II.3.4 Copper conductor design

Based on equation (2) and the resistivity of a copper conductor, the resistance parameters can be calculated as shown in Table II.1.

Table II.1 – Relevant resistance parameters for a copper conductor

Conductor cross-sectional area (mm^2)	Length of cable (m)	Resistance of conductor R_c (Ω)	Ring resistance R (Ω)
1.5	1 000	13.3	26.6
2.5	1 000	7.98	15.96
4.0	1 000	4.95	9.90
6.0	1 000	3.30	6.60

The resistivity of a copper conductor is 0.01757.

Based on equations (1), (2) and (3), the relationship matrix regarding remote distance, DC remote supply voltage, copper conductor cross-sectional area and rated RRU power can be obtained as shown in Table II.2.

Table II.2 – Relationship matrix regarding remote distance, DC voltage, conductor cross-sectional area and rated remote radio unit power

Total power for the remote radio unit (W)	Remote distance (km)							
	350 VDC				380 VDC			
	Nominal area for copper conductor				Nominal area for copper conductor			
	2 × 1.5	2 × 2.5	2 × 4.0	2 × 6.0	2 × 1.5	2 × 2.5	2 × 4.0	2 × 6.0
200	4.2	6.9	11.5 m	16.8	5.6	9.2	14.8	22.4
300	2.8	4.7	7.7	11.2	3.7	6.0	9.7	14.8
400	2.1	3.5	5.7	8.4	2.8	4.6	7.4	11.2
600	1.4	2.4	3.4	5.6	1.9	3.0	4.9	7.6
800	1.1	1.8	2.9	4.2	1.4	2.3	3.7	5.6
1 000	0.90	1.4	2.3	3.6	1.1	1.8	3.0	4.4
1 200	0.70	1.2	1.7	2.8	1.0	1.5	2.5	4.0

II.3.5 Aluminium conductor design

Based on equation (2) and the resistivity of an aluminium conductor, the resistance parameters can be calculated as shown in Table II.3.

Table II.3 – Relevant resistance parameters for an aluminium conductor

Conductor cross-sectional area (mm^2)	Length of cable (m)	Resistance of conductor R_C (Ω)	Ring resistance R (Ω)
6.0	1 000	4.61	9.22
8.0	1 000	3.83	7.66
10.0	1 000	3.08	6.16
16.0	1 000	1.91	3.82

The resistivity of an aluminium conductor is 0.02838.

Based on equations (1), (2) and (3), the relationship matrix regarding remote distance, DC remote supply voltage, aluminium conductor cross-sectional area and rated RRU power can be obtained as shown in Table II.4.

Table II.4 – Relationship matrix regarding remote distance, DC voltage, conductor cross-sectional area and rated remote radio unit power

Total power for remote radio unit (W)	Remote distance (km)							
	350 VDC				380 VDC			
	Nominal area for aluminium conductor				Nominal area for aluminium conductor			
	2 × 6.0	2 × 8.0	2 × 10.0	2 × 16.0	2 × 6.0	2 × 8.0	2 × 10.0	2 × 16.0
200	5.8	7.6	9.6	15.2	7.7	10.2	12.8	15.4
300	3.8	5.2	6.4	10.4	5.1	7.0	8.6	14.0
400	2.9	3.8	4.8	7.6	3.9	5.2	6.4	10.4
600	1.9	2.6	3.2	5.2	2.6	3.6	4.3	7.2
800	1.5	2.0	2.4	4.0	2.0	2.6	3.2	5.2
1 000	1.2	1.6	1.9	3.2	1.5	2.0	2.6	4.0
1 200	1.0 m	1.4	1.6	2.8	1.3	1.8	2.2	3.6

II.3.6 Hybrid optical and electrical cable design

II.3.6.1 Design principles

The hybrid optical and electrical cable described here is a kind of cable via a centralized DC power supply. The cable design includes conductor cross-sectional area, as illustrated in clauses II.3.4 and II.3.5 and fibre core design, which is affected by the topology between the BBU and the RRU.

For an outdoor distributed base station, a star type topology is generally adopted. The antenna of a base station for mobile communication usually has three sectors. Each of them connects an RRU independently. Every connection between the BBU and RRU usually occupies two single-mode optical fibre channels. Thus, six fibres are required for a base station. Considering fibre backup, 12 fibres are sufficient for a base station. In some cases, such as towers with two base stations or when a future upgrade is predicted, the design of a hybrid optical and electrical cable with 24 fibres is required.

II.3.6.2 Design example

A kind of hybrid optical and electrical cable is designed as shown in Figure II.8. Single mode fibres (SMFs) are contained in the loose tube filled with jelly. A steel wire is employed as the central strength member. Tubes and insulated copper conductors are stranded around the central strength member. An aluminium polyethylene laminate (APL) tape is longitudinally wrapped around the cable core. Then, the cable core is extruded with a PE sheath.

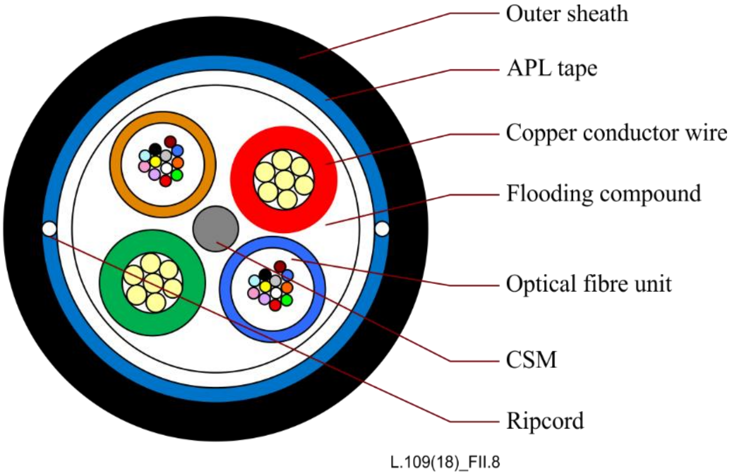

Figure II.8 – Hybrid cable cross-section for GDTA −24B1.3+2*4 mm²

CSM: central strength member

The hybrid cable design has the following advantages:

– small size, light weight, easy installation and low cost;

– combines optical fibre cable with power cable;

– good mechanical properties and electrical properties, as well as environmental performance;

– the cable design of "two copper wires and 24 optical fibres" is suitable for the flexible topology between the BBU and the RRU.

II.4 Conclusion

This appendix introduces an integrated solution for a distributed base station via DC remote power supply, including the design of a conductor cross-sectional area in a hybrid cable, as well as the design of an optical cable core. The relationship matrix regarding remote distance, DC remote supply voltage, conductor cross-sectional area and rated RRU power is also given. It can ensure smart mobile communication by offering a stable power supply to the base station.

Appendix III

French/Polish experience

(This appendix does not form an integral part of this Recommendation.)

III.1 Introduction

The hybrid cable design in this appendix is an example of a typical cable construction that is used for a fixed access network (FAN) and a radio access network (RAN), e.g., for remote radio head (RRH) installations. In the hybrid cable, optical fibres provide data communication and copper conductors provide 400 VDC remote powering solutions. See Figure III.1.

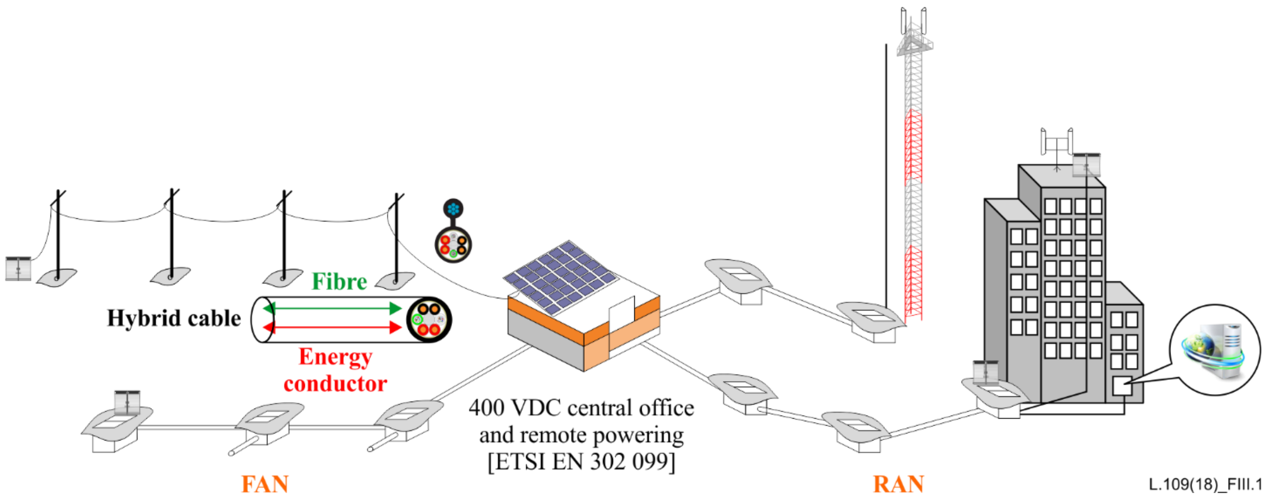

Figure III.1 – Example for remote radio head installation

III.2 Cable design

The cable is realized with one or several copper pairs of conductors with a cross-sectional area 2.5 mm^2 or 4 mm^2, 12 to 48 (modulo 12) single-mode fibres and rip cords.

For example, if total copper pairs of cross-sectional area 10 mm^2 are required, a cable of four 2.5 mm^2 copper pairs can be used with the number of fibres needed. The required total copper cross-sectional area to feed a remote site is in the range of 2.5 mm^2 to 25 mm^2 for 400 VDC, depending on the power required and the distance to be covered.

The cable can be shielded or unshielded. If screened, a drain wire is needed.

The overall jacket is made of PVC or thermoplastic elastomer-halogen-free (TPE-HF) material.

The cable design allows a small bend radius and excellent cable routing properties.

The following sheath marking has been developed:

COMPANY NAME_DD YY WW_MANUFACTURER_HYBRID (ref) XXXX_(number of fibres) XX FO_(fibres type) XXXX + (number of conductors) XX x (cross-section) XX mm^2____ 400VDC ____(length)XXX

Insulation material: The material for insulation should be PE cross-linked, halogen free with the following identification: red, black.

The cable is easily identified with three red lines integrated on the sheath around the cable to indicate the presence of a potential high voltage in the core. See Figure III.2.

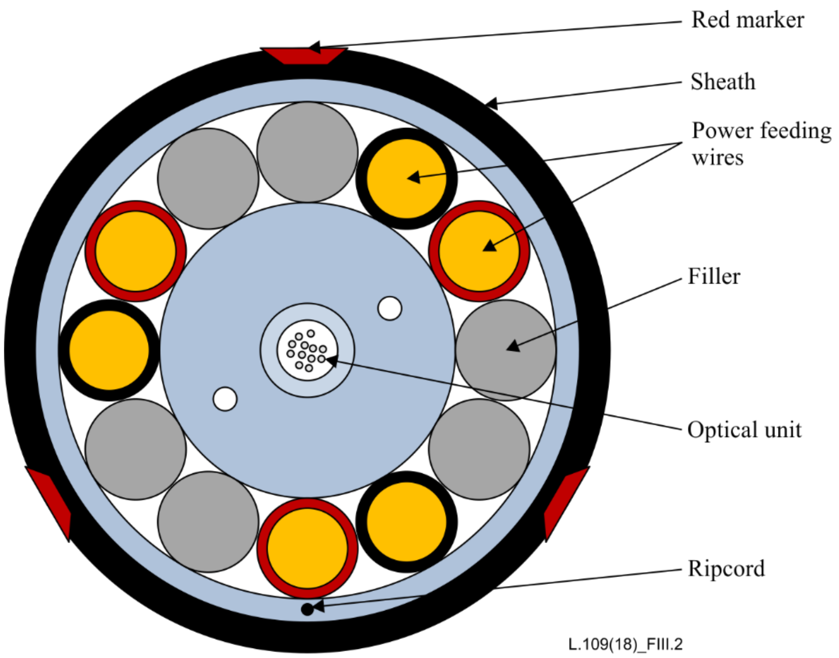

Figure III.2 – Example cross-section of the hybrid cable

Appendix IV

Swiss experience

(This appendix does not form an integral part of this Recommendation.)

IV.1 Introduction

The hybrid cable design in this appendix is an example of a typical construction that is used for RRH installations by several network operators. In the hybrid cable, optical fibres provide optical data communication, and the copper conductors provide power feeding.

IV.2 Cable design

The cable, as shown in Figure IV.1, contains 12 copper conductors of American wire gauge (AWG) 6 mm^2 or 16 mm^2, a compact cable with 24 single-mode fibres, a drain wire, shielding and rip cords. The overall jacket is made of PVC or TPE-HF material.

The shielding of the hybrid cable, one layer (of thickness 0.05 mm) of 100% copper tape wrapped around the conductors and drain wire enables the use of grounding kits between the base transmission station and the RRHs. The cable design allows a small bend radius and excellent cable routing properties.

The copper shield and the AWG 6 mm^2 or 16 mm^2 drain wire maintain contact throughout the cable run and ensure an appropriate earthing feature. The rip cords offer an easy and quick stripping of the cable jacket.

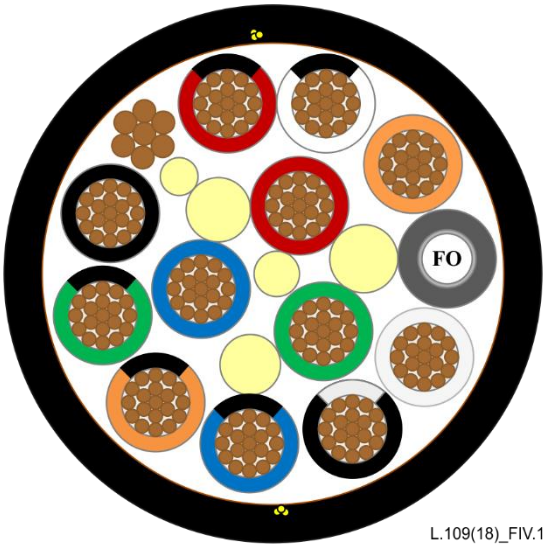

Figure IV.1 – Cross-section of the hybrid cable

IV.3 Application

The cable configuration in Figure IV.1 enables up to six RRH to be connected. The cable has to perform well under outdoor thermal conditions and has to meet the specified fire performance requirements.

Such cables are used for dedicated cabling systems, which include a ruggedized enclosure and robust breakout-out cables open-ended or terminated with the connectors. The cabling systems are usually factory terminated and supplied by cabling system manufacturers.

IV.4 Conclusion

A factory-terminated hybrid cabling system is an efficient and easy to install cabling solution. It can be installed in approximately half of the time of the competitive hybrid solutions based on the corrugated coax cable designs.

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