



## About FiberCo™

Internet2 established the National Research and Education Fiber Company – better known as FiberCo – explicitly to support those regional optical networking initiatives dedicated to research and higher education.

FiberCo provides a means for acquiring, holding, and assigning dark fiber optic network assets in support of the Internet2 community's goals of developing and deploying advanced network applications and technologies. FiberCo facilitates the ongoing development of regional optical networking efforts around the country in order to complement the existing Internet2 network infrastructure while providing higher education in the United States with an ongoing strategic fiber acquisition capability on the national scale. FiberCo works with regional networks in the acquisition of dark fibers assets. Subsequently, FiberCo can transfer both ownership of and operational responsibility for the fibers to the assignee.



## The core objectives of FiberCo are:

- To provide inter-city dark fiber to regional optical networks with the benefit of national-scale agreements and aggregate price levels. The regional networks maintain responsibility for lighting and maintaining the fiber.
- To insure that the U.S. research university community maintains access to a strategic fiber acquisition capability on the national scale for both current and future optical initiatives (e.g., National LambdaRail).

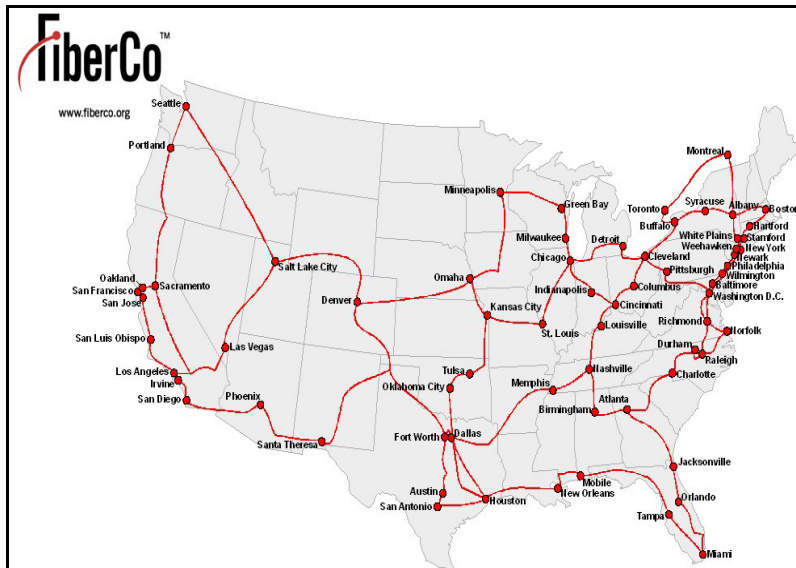
## FiberCo & Level 3 Communications

Through its agreements with Level 3 Communications, FiberCo has the ability to provision dark fiber from the original Level 3 national footprint. FiberCo primarily assigns the fiber agreements covering the desired segments to the appropriate regional optical network. FiberCo's agreements with Level 3 provided FiberCo with an initial allocation of over 2,600 route-miles of dark fiber anywhere on Level 3's national footprint and established the ongoing costs for the fiber itself as well as fiber operations and maintenance, equipment co-location and DC power.

## Other Collaborative Partnerships

FiberCo actively solicits innovative solutions to assist with the acquisition of dark fiber assets and related capabilities for the U.S. higher education community. Through these collaborative partnerships, FiberCo seeks to enhance its capacity to provide national and regional dark fiber assets. As part of its mission, FiberCo assists regional networks in their efforts to develop robust optical infrastructures.

## A Source for Regional and National Inter-City Fiber Segments



- **FiberCo has the ability to provision dark fiber on the original Level 3 footprint.**
- **Dark fiber is a necessary ingredient in the construction of next generation optical networks.**
- **When lit, dark fiber can support multiple 10 Gigabit/sec wavelengths.**

### Process for Assigning Dark Fiber

- Two established agreements with Level 3 Communications – the Inter-city Infeasible Right to Use (IRU) and the Maintenance and Co-location (O&M) Agreements – form the basis of the end product of FiberCo’s assignment process.
- Through a separate assignment agreement with both FiberCo and Level 3, prospective dark fiber assignees adopt the IRU and O&M agreements from FiberCo and thus take direct ownership of and ongoing responsibility for the purchased fiber strands.
- Fiber costs are calculated on a per-stand, per-mile basis; the original pricing was based on national scale volumes. Assignment is open to all U.S. research universities and non-profit organizations engaged in supporting advanced networking endeavors.
- The original 2,600 route-mile footprint held by FiberCo is extensible at current pricing levels through early 2006, pending fiber availability.

**For more information regarding FiberCo, please contact us via e-mail at [fiberco@internet2.edu](mailto:fiberco@internet2.edu) or visit [www.fiberco.org](http://www.fiberco.org)**