

Russian Pipeline Optical Cable



Article Overview

A Russian undersea fiber optic cable in the Baltic Sea was damaged near the Balticconnector gas pipeline, highlighting vulnerabilities in critical maritime infrastructure.

Overview of the Incident

In October 2023, a Russian fiber optic cable operated by Rostelecom under the Baltic Sea was completely severed approximately 28 km from the Balticconnector gas pipeline, which was damaged shortly afterward . The cable, linking Russia's Kaliningrad exclave to the mainland, is a double-armored fiber optic line with a thickness of 40.4 mm, designed to carry telecommunications data across the Baltic . Finnish authorities suspect that the Hong Kong-flagged container ship NewNew Polar Bear caused the damage by dragging its anchor along the seabed, which also likely ruptured the nearby gas pipeline .

Security and Geopolitical Context

The Baltic Sea has become a hotspot for undersea infrastructure disruptions, including both fiber optic cables and gas pipelines . These cables are critical for global communications, carrying over 95% of intercontinental data flows, and are essential for military, financial, and civilian communications . The proximity of the Russian cable to the damaged Balticconnector pipeline underscores the strategic vulnerability of undersea networks, particularly amid heightened tensions following Russia's invasion of Ukraine and the Nord Stream pipeline sabotage

Article Content

Russian firm Rostelecom will not seek compensation for severed fiber ...

Russian company Rostelecom won't seek compensation for a damaged fiber optic cable in the Baltic Sea. The

Europeans probe Baltic cable damage as suspicions turn toward Russia

European governments and the United States have accused Russia of intensifying "hybrid attacks" following reports

New Baltic Sea mystery as probe begins into two damaged cables

It follows a similar route to the Russia-to-Germany Nord Stream gas pipelines, which exploded in September 2022 in

Intentional or Accident: Russian fiber optic cable cut (1 of 3) by ...

A Russian fiber optic cable under the Baltic Sea was completely severed last month when a Chinese container ship

EXPLAINER: A deep dive into risks for undersea cables, pipes

3 of 5 | FILE - Pipe systems and shut-off devices are seen at the gas receiving station of the Nord Stream 2 Baltic Sea pipeline in

As Russia is accused of hybrid warfare against the West, vital

Russia has been accused recently by America's NATO allies of increasing "hybrid warfare" against Europe, and

1,600 kms of Fiber Optic Cable for Russian High-Speed Link

Milan, 5 April 2000 - The Russian operator JSC Gaztelecom has awarded Pirelli Cables and Systems with a major contract for the

Seabed zero: Baltic sabotage and the global risks to

On several occasions, European navies have detected Russian submarines sailing near

Baltic Sea cable sabotage timeline: From Nord Stream

The ship's captain appeared in court in Hong Kong in 2025 accused of causing "criminal

Are underwater pipelines, cables being sabotaged in the

Two fibre-optic undersea cables in the Baltic Sea were severed on Sunday and Monday,

Russia Forced to Rely on Chinese Optical Fiber Imports

Russia's only domestic producer of optical fiber has been offline since May 2025 following

Russia starts operation to lay undersea fibre optic cable

Russia on Friday begins laying its first undersea fibre optic communications cable through

What are undersea cables and why is Russia accused of cutting them ...

This is the latest example of damaged undersea cables for power or data, or pipelines for oil, that have put Baltic

Cables deep under the Baltic Sea keep getting damaged

What's under the Baltic? Power and communications cables and gas pipelines stitch together the nine countries with

Baltic undersea pipes and cables keep getting

This is just the latest in a string of incidents since late 2022 causing damage to Europe's

Russia Says Telecoms Cable Damaged Last Month Just

A Russian fibre optic cable under the Baltic Sea was damaged last month only 28 km (17 miles) from where a gas

Why UK's undersea cables are vulnerable

Why UK's undersea cables are vulnerable - and Putin has "pretty good map" of where they

Russian Boat Implicated in Norway Cable Sabotage

Last year the Norwegian military released videos showing Russian nuclear attack subs

2024 Baltic Sea submarine cable disruptions

On 17-18 November 2024, two submarine telecommunication cables, the BCS East-West Interlink and

Seabed zero: Baltic sabotage and the global risks to

(Map by Thomas Gaulkin / Datawrapper; Source: Wilson Center / Submarine Cable Map /

Fiber Atlantic

This interactive submarine cable map shows the global undersea fiber optic cables connecting world. Explore cable routes, landing

Russia issues ominous warning about undersea internet

Nikolai Patrushev, a Vladimir Putin ally, told Kommersant the U.S. and the U.K. attacked

Russia is adding fiber-optic cables to its cheap "Molniya" strike ...

Fiber-optic cables have typically been used for smaller quadcopters. Now, the practice is being extended to larger

Russian Firm Says Baltic Telecoms Cable Was Severed As

A Russian fiber optic cable under the Baltic Sea was completely severed last month when a Chinese container ship

Contact Us

For more information, pricing, or custom solutions, please contact us:

Website: <https://www.thebucketlistbook.co.za>

Email: sales@thebucketlistbook.co.za

Phone: +33 1 42 78 39 16

Address: 10 Rue de la Paix, 75002 Paris, France

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