



PRESS RELEASE

L2Fiber Rotterdam B.V. (“L2Fiber Rotterdam”) partners with Highland Group Holdings Ltd. (“Highland”) to develop, build and operate a citywide, open-access optical fiber network in Rotterdam, Netherlands

ROTTERDAM, 26 July 2018 – Highland has entered into an exclusive agreement to invest in L2Fiber Rotterdam. The company plans to bring optical fiber access to all 295,000 homes in Rotterdam over the next 5 years, starting with the 10,000 homes of Kralingen-West in August.

The founders of L2Fiber Rotterdam, Oscar Kuiper and Henk Hoven, are veterans of the telecom industry, having specialised in fiber optic broadband for the past 15 years. They stated jointly:

We are thrilled to partner with Highland, whose investment will ensure that the project is supported by a reliable and reputable infrastructure investor. The network will change the way Rotterdammers experience the Internet and use the other services provided through the network, from live online gamers needing the quickest response to the elderly requiring secure 24h remote health monitoring.

Albert Jochems, Investment Manager at Highland, announced:

We are very excited about this opportunity to extend fiber coverage in the Netherlands, starting with the city of Rotterdam. We have found a great partner in L2Fiber, whose team combines strong entrepreneurial drive with the most up-to-date technological expertise. We look forward to working with them to provide citizens and businesses with access to high-quality internet and data services.

The partnership is delighted to start rolling out the network in Rotterdam and intends to deploy similar networks in other Dutch cities that have shown interest.

L2Fiber Rotterdam

L2Fiber Rotterdam is the only optical fiber network of its size in Europe to be developed exclusively by private investors. The network will be open to all service providers to deliver ultra-fast internet and high-quality television and telephony at competitive prices to the inhabitants of Rotterdam. Service providers Glasnet, Hollands Glas, SNLR, Teleplaza and TriNed have already announced that they will use the network to provide reliable internet at speeds of up to 1 Gbps. L2Fiber Rotterdam will also make the network available to providers of other services such as eHealth and security.

The network will use GPON technology, allowing a single fiber line to deliver connectivity to multiple users. This access method will not only reduce network complexity and maintenance requirements, but also save on energy consumption and upgrade costs.



Rotterdam Smart City programme

L2Fiber Rotterdam has the support of the City of Rotterdam, which has already started providing permits for the first excavation work to take place in August. Rotterdam is at the core of the Netherlands' Smart City Strategy to make cities' infrastructure more future-proof and interoperable. Frank Vieveen, Smart City Lead at the City of Rotterdam, stated:

The City of Rotterdam encourages the installation of high-speed, high-quality digital networks and welcomes the initiative of L2Fiber Rotterdam to deploy an optical fiber network in the city. This infrastructure will enable citizens and businesses to develop and use next-generation services such as home automation, telemedicine, and cloud computing.

L2Fiber Rotterdam stands as one of the major joint initiatives by citizens and private organisations to foster innovation in the city, bringing:

- Open network available to all service providers;
- Superfast network with same-speed download and upload;
- Large choice of affordable internet and television plans;
- Smart design limiting the visual impact of the infrastructure;
- Sustainable setup using 80% less energy than copper networks and drawing its residual energy needs from renewable energy sources;
- Future-proof service scalable to 10/40 Gbps anticipating 8K movies, high-res VR and UHD game streaming.

Green Giraffe (<https://green-giraffe.eu>) acted as sole financial advisor to L2Fiber Rotterdam (<https://l2fiberrotterdam.nl>) in the development and financing of the project, while Clifford Chance (<https://www.cliffordchance.com>) advised on the legal and contractual aspects. Highland was advised by financial advisor IMAP Netherlands (<http://imap.nl>) and law firm AKD (<https://www.akd.nl>).