

MEDIA RELEASE

Dirt spells death for fiber optic contacts

**R&M on the golden rules of cleanliness for plug connectors /
Recommendation: always check first, then clean if necessary**

Wetzikon, November 8, 2016. R&M, the global Swiss developer and provider of cabling systems for high-quality network infrastructures, has taken a look at the golden rules of cleanliness for fiber optic plug connectors in a recently published specialist article. "If you are not careful with fiber optic connections, you are not just risking signal and performance loss, but in certain circumstances total destruction," warns the fiber optic specialist. A reliable data network is in everyone's best interests in order to keep on top of the growing demand for data transfer.

Even small dirt particles on the contact surface of an optical fiber can negatively impact the transmission properties and could potentially even destroy the fiber optic connection. "If the connector is plugged in during installation work without first being checked, it could well be too late. The high pressure in the connection means that particles are immediately pressed in and this can cause irreversible damage," explains R&M Product Manager Daniel Eigenmann. Various market studies have shown that up to 85% of faults in fiber optic connections occur at the place where they are being used, as the surfaces of the fibers become contaminated with dirt during installation.

However, it is an erroneous belief that every new connector should always be cleaned before being plugged in. "Most connectors actually arrive at their place of deployment in the pristine state in which they left the production facility of conscientious manufacturers. In such cases, the installer can actually only make the quality worse by cleaning the connector," says the fiber optic expert. R&M's recommended rule of thumb for installation work is "check first, then clean." A microscope or some other inspection tool should always be on hand at the installation site so that plugs and adapters can be checked before pairing.



A recent whitepaper by R&M explains why the purity of the fiber stubs is of such great importance for signal transmission. It lists typical causes of faults, as well as providing information on test criteria and cleaning methods according to the IEC 62627-01/TR standard. You can order the document here: <https://www.rdm.com/whitepaper/en>.



Image 050.6357: Optical fibers



Image 050.6383: How optical fiber contact surfaces look in different states. From left to right: cleaned connection, water residue, dust and dirt particles, fingerprint. Swiss fiber optic specialist R&M recommends that, before pairing, you should always first check fiber optic connections and then clean if necessary. Image source: R&M

About R&M

R&M (Reichle & De-Massari AG) is a leading global producer of future-proof products and systems for communication and data networks. The company's close collaboration with certified partners results in pioneering connectivity solutions in the sectors LAN, Public and Telecom Networks as well as Data Centers. The Swiss family company stands for innovation, quality, and proximity to customers. More information can be found at www.rdm.com

Press and media contact

Reichle & De-Massari AG (R&M), René Eichenberger, Corporate Communications,
Binzstrasse 32, CHE-8620 Wetzikon, Switzerland. Phone: +41 44 933 82 85, e-mail: rene.eichenberger@rdm.com

