



## Optical Communication Market forecast – October 2021



## Table of Contents

<b>ABSTRACT .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>EXECUTIVE SUMMARY.....</b>	<b>5</b>
SALES OF OPTICAL TRANSCEIVERS ARE PROJECTED TO GROW AT 14% CAGR OVER THE NEXT 5 YEARS .....	5
TELECOM SERVICE PROVIDERS ARE ON TARGET TO SPEND MORE IN 2021, BUT GROWTH IN SPENDING BY CLOUD COMPANIES	
CONTINUES TO SURPRISE.....	6
ENJOY THE EXCITEMENT, BUT KEEP YOUR FEET ON THE GROUND .....	8
<b>CHAPTER 1: CARRIER REVENUE, CAPEX OVERVIEW .....</b>	<b>9</b>
OPERATOR REVENUES FORECAST TO GROW 8% IN 2021 .....	9
CAPEX IS FORECAST AT \$173 BILLION IN 2021 AFTER A SLOW FIRST HALF .....	12
M&As, IPOs AND INVESTMENTS .....	13
CHINA SPOTLIGHT: 5G USER GROWTH ACCELERATES; FTTH AT 475 MILLION.....	14
NETWORK TRANSFORMATION: QUANTUM, SD-RAN AND 5G EDGE SERVICES .....	16
<b>CHAPTER 2: INTERNET INFRASTRUCTURE DRIVERS .....</b>	<b>19</b>
INTERNET INFRASTRUCTURE SPENDING .....	19
ICP INFRASTRUCTURE SPENDING GROWTH GOT A BOOST IN 2020.....	20
SPENDING REMAINS CONCENTRATED IN THE TOP FIVE ICPs (89% OF TOTAL SPENDING IN H1, 2021).....	20
CLOUD SERVICES REVENUE INCREASING AS SHARE OF TOTAL .....	21
INTERNET COMPANIES HAVE \$721 BILLION IN CASH ON HAND (JUNE, 2021) .....	22
REGULATORY ANIMUS TOWARD THE LARGEST ICPs HAS GONE GLOBAL.....	22
<i>Europe leans toward fines to rein in anti-competitive behavior.....</i>	23
<i>The U.S. debates break-ups and legislation to curb excesses.....</i>	26
<i>China is the latest to crack down on ICPs .....</i>	27
<i>Regulatory impact on datacenter optics demand.....</i>	28
<b>CHAPTER 3: FORECAST FOR OPTICAL COMPONENTS AND MODULES USED IN TELECOM APPLICATIONS .....</b>	<b>30</b>
SUMMARY.....	30
COHERENT DWDM TRANSCEIVERS AND TOTAL DWDM PORTS .....	34
10G CWDM AND DWDM ARE STILL SHIPPING.....	39
TUNABLE LASERS, MODULATORS AND RECEIVERS FOR DWDM APPLICATIONS .....	40
WAVELENGTH SELECTIVE SWITCH (WSS) MODULES.....	42
FTTx OPTICAL COMPONENTS.....	45
OPTICAL TRANSCEIVERS FOR WIRELESS FRONTHAUL AND BACKHAUL .....	49
BACKHAUL SHOWS SLOWER BUT STEADIER GROWTH.....	54
<b>CHAPTER 4: FORECAST FOR OPTICAL TRANSCEIVERS AND INTERCONNECTS USED IN DATACOM APPLICATIONS .....</b>	<b>57</b>
SUMMARY.....	57
ETHERNET TRANSCEIVERS .....	59

FIBRE CHANNEL TRANSCEIVERS .....	61
OPTICAL INTERCONNECTS .....	62
<b>CHAPTER 5: FORECAST METHODOLOGY .....</b>	<b>65</b>
INTERNET AND DATACENTER TRAFFIC GROWTH.....	65
FORECAST METHODOLOGY .....	66

## Abstract

This report provides a detailed market demand forecast through 2026 for optical components and modules used in Ethernet, Fibre Channel, CWDM/DWDM, wireless infrastructure, FTTx, and high-performance computing (HPC) applications.

Key inputs include an analysis of the business and infrastructure spending of the top 15 service providers and of the leading Internet companies, and sales data from 2016 through 2020 for more than 30 transceiver vendors, including more than 20 vendors that shared their confidential sales information with LightCounting. The forecast is based on LightCounting's proprietary forecast model, which correlates transceiver sales with network traffic growth and the projected deployments of 5G and FTTx systems for broadband access.

LightCounting is also grateful to many industry experts for their critical review of the forecast projections.