

Press Release

TKRZ builds innovative regional backbone with Smartoptics open DWDM

Oslo, Norway – February 3, 2026 – Smartoptics, a leading provider of optical networking solutions, today announced that TKRZ Stadtwerke GmbH, a regional ISP and data center operator in northwestern Germany, has upgraded its entire backbone to Smartoptics active DWDM technology. The new solution delivers nearly unlimited Ethernet capacity with low latency and built-in redundancy while also supporting Fibre Channel on the same platform. This enables new service offerings, extended reach to edge connections, and supports TKRZ's upcoming flagship Datacenter Münster Osnabrück (DMO).

Based in Emsdetten, Germany, TKRZ provides colocation, cloud and managed connectivity for enterprises and municipal organizations. Its dual role as data center operator and infrastructure provider enables low-latency, high-reliability services across the Münster–Osnabrück region.

As its 10G CWDM architecture reached its limits, TKRZ upgraded its backbone with Smartoptics active DWDM. Compact 1U open line systems and transponders/muxponders deliver 100G/400G Ethernet and 16G/32G Fibre Channel on one low-latency platform. The solution meets growing capacity demands across the region and enables consolidation of two existing data centers into DMO, a carrier-neutral, scalable facility designed to serve as the region's new connectivity hub.

"What we appreciate most about Smartoptics is the openness of the platform and the competence and responsiveness of the people behind it – every interaction has been fast, collaborative and solution-oriented. This deployment strengthens our role as the region's digital backbone, allowing us to interconnect the entire Münster–Osnabrück area and link it seamlessly with major national hubs. With our new data center opening in early 2026 playing a big part, we're creating infrastructure that will drive regional growth and innovation for years to come," says Christoph Stegemann, Managing Director of both TKRZ Stadtwerke GmbH and DMO GmbH.

With Smartoptics ROADMs, TKRZ can deliver high-speed transport to edge connections from Hamburg in the north to Frankfurt in the south. Working with regional utilities, the network reaches nearly every location across the Münster–Osnabrück area, offering near-unlimited Ethernet capacity, low latency and built-in redundancy. Using Smartoptics certified optical solutions for Brocade Gen 7, TKRZ has also introduced a colocation service that lets Fibre Channel users connect to its data centers as reliably and seamlessly as if they were on-site.

"From the first design simulations in SoSmart using TKRZ's real fiber data to joint planning with our long-standing value-add partner MG Future ahead of the live rollout, this deployment has been a model of close collaboration. With SoSmart and plug-and-play network elements, the new active solution is almost as easy to manage as the old passive architecture. TKRZ is ahead of the game – showing how service innovation and strategic partnerships can raise regional connectivity to the same standard as larger metro areas," says Björn Roug n, VP Sales Europe, Smartoptics.

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About Smartoptics

Smartoptics provides innovative optical networking solutions and devices for the new era of open networking. Our customer base includes thousands of enterprises, governments, cloud providers, Internet exchanges as well as cable and telecom operators. We have an open networking approach in everything we do which allows our customers to break unwanted vendor lock-in, remain flexible and minimize costs. Our solutions are used in metro and regional network applications that increasingly rely on data center services and specifications. Smartoptics is a Scandinavian company founded in 2006. We partner with leading technology and network solution providers such as Brocade, Cisco and Dell and have a global reach through more than 100 business partners.

For additional information about Smartoptics, please visit <https://smartoptics.com/>

About TKRZ

TKRZ has been an Internet Service Provider (ISP) and operator of four regional data centers since 2009. Since then, the company has been running fiber-optic networks for both residential and business customers. In addition, TKRZ serves as a service provider and operator of fiber-optic networks for various other municipal utilities in the region. Its portfolio includes the marketing and delivery of internet, voice, and TV services.