

## **MAKE IT EASY SHEET**

### **BRAND-REX BLOLITE**

**What is Blolite?** Blolite is an Air Blown Fibre (ABF) infrastructure solution. Through the use of ABF the network operator can install an optical network infrastructure that remains flexible throughout its life. On day one a simple empty microduct infrastructure is installed using the same topology as you would use for a traditional network. These empty ducts form the flexible backbone of an ABF solution and enable special fibre elements to be installed using ABF technology. Most importantly, the fibre can be installed when it is required and only to the locations where it is required, without disruption. Blolite delivers a truly future-proof network infrastructure today and will continue to offer flexibility throughout the life of the network. Through the ability to simply remove previously installed fibre elements using the ABF technology, Blolite delivers a non-disruptive upgrade path. Fibre installed today can be removed and replaced with the latest specification fibre elements as the demands on the network increase. Blolite utilises the Blown Fibre Technology patents of BT.

**Why would I install Blolite?** Customer requirements in the ever advancing communications market continues to grow, stretching scarce bandwidth resources and truly testing the performance of today's networks. In choosing cabling system solutions, whether for small, medium or large multi site locations, Server farms or co location data centres, network planners have some serious issues to consider. Among these is the decision as to which type and mix of fibre to install to allow for network expansion and upgrade has been a dilemma for many years. In the past, industry practice has been to install 'dark fibre' to meet future demands, however, this strategy is by no means risk-free as unterminated, untested fibres may not be fit for purpose when the time comes to light the fibres in the future. By choosing an Air Blown Fibre infrastructure the network operator will install a network infrastructure that delivers freedom from risk.

**How is the fibre installed?** The heart of the Blolite system is the IM2000 Blocentre. The IM2000 is an electrically powered unit which combines the thrust from a belt driven input system with high pressure compressed air to 'blow' the fibre elements into previously installed microducts. It is the blowing technology that is protected by the patents of British Telecom, access to the technology only being available to licensed installers. The installation distance that can be achieved is relative to the type of route and number of fibres. It is possible to install fibre up to 1,000m, although the most common routes are between 300m and 600m, distances typically found in campus and high rise backbone applications.

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#### **What products are available?**

Within the Blolite product range there are three distinct product ranges, Ducts, Fibre Elements and Accessories.

#### **Duct Products**

Blolite ducts are available as single elements or multiducts, a number is single duct elements with an outer sheath that gives added protection and aids installation. All duct products are currently based on 5mm and 8mm microduct elements. Multiducts are available as 1 way, 2 way, 4 way, 7 way, 12 way and 19 way (5mm Only), with either a LSZH sheath or PE sheath dependant on the installation requirement.

#### **Fibre Elements**

Blolite fibre products are unique in the market; only Blolite offers a single fibre element that is suitable for installation using the ABF technology. By offering a single element, compared to a fibre bundle, the network operator has greater flexibility when choosing the type of fibre to be installed; fibre can be mixed easily within a single duct. Additionally single elements reduce the amount of time spent in termination preparation, saving valuable time during the installation. Blolite fibre elements are available in 12 standard colours, and in all standard fibre grades. New additions to the range include G652c/d Low Water Peak Single-Mode Fibre and a high grade OM3 (B-R Z50) fibre element capable of delivering 10 Gigabit Ethernet over 500m.

#### **Accessories**

The range of Blolite accessories includes all the necessary pneumatic connectors to create duct to duct joints as well as connections to patch panels and outlets. Within the range there are also some special application connectors, such as end stops and gas blocking connectors.

#### **What about the cost compared to traditional fibre?**

if the network operator envisages many moves, adds and changes then Blolite will pay dividends in the longer term. The flexibility of being able to reconfigure duct routes using the pneumatic connectors and then simply blow in new fibre without the physical disruption of normal rip and tear operations gives financially justifiable returns. The day one cost of a Blolite infrastructure will normally be less than traditional fibre if no 'dark fibre' is installed. As a direct comparison fibre for Blolite is on average 30% more expensive than traditional fibre. Although if you install a cable with 12 fibres and use them all on day 1, you have no opportunity to add additional network capacity whereas with Blolite you can simply blow in additional fibres.

#### **What about Warranty and Support?**

Blolite is included within the Millennium 25 Year Channel Warranty. Our Millennium Engineering team is also available for technical support and planning advise for all blown fibre installations.

#### **How do I become an installer?**

You will need to decide if you want to be a full installer and be licensed to install ducts and fibre or a just a duct installer and then use the services of Millennium Engineering or another Sub Contract Licensed Installer to install the fibre. Training for both levels is available through Brand-Rex Training Services and details can be found on the Brand-Rex website.