

Article Name: Atheeb picks ZTE for metro fibre network

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Atheeb Telecom, the Saudi Arabian operator known as Go Telecom, is to build a fibre network in Riyadh and other cities

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Saudi Arabian fixed-line operator, Atheeb Telecom, has appointed ZTE to build a fibre-optic network in key cities in the country. The fibre-to-the-home and fibre-to-the-business services network will initially reach Riyadh.

The new network will be merged with the operator's WiMax network, said the operator's CEO, Zaid Al Shabanat. The company will launch fibre in Jeddah and Dammam in the second phase of the project.

The founding partners of Atheeb Telecom, also known as Go Telecom, have committed to 65% share upon the raise of company capital.

According to Dubai-based telecoms consulting and investment firm, Delta Partners, Saudi Arabia's internet sector may increase by some 4 million new internet users and 2.7 million new broadband users by 2014. **GTB**