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There has been an increasing demand for telecom capacity and Internet services both from private and commercial users world over. Widespread use of fiber optic cables has been meeting this demand satisfactorily. However, there is a need to increase the bandwidth and this has led to interest in developing multi-terabit optical network.

Presently available 4 TB networks using 40 Gbps data rate combined with 100 DWDM channels exists. Researchers are looking for and will very soon achieve even higher bandwidth – 100 Gbps. Combined with reducing cost of fiber optic components, the availability of much greater bandwidth in future is bound to improve the lifestyle of mankind, which is so much dependent on communication.

Presently, OFC T&M equipment market in India is passing through a buoyant phase with rapidly increasing length of the network. Price of T&M equipment is still very high, though the market is witnessing a downward trend. The present-day scenario not only demands price reduction but also ease-of-use and better portability.

Manufacturers of T&M equipment, especially in the United States, are ceased with the current trend and are very keen to bring desired changes in their products through continuous R&D process.

One of the manufacturers has already unveiled fully automated Wireless Fiber Inspection Probe. The product enables technicians in applications such as fiber to antenna (FTTA) installations to feed fiber inspection data from a wireless probe to their Android smart devices, including smartphones. Remarkability of the product is that it enables operators to perform inspection with one hand.

Miniaturizing of optical fiber communication components including T&M equipment is a new trend most likely to continue in future.

Evolution will continue to take place in the entire range of T&M instruments in the time to come and breakthrough attained in laboratories will be extended to practical deployment, thereby leading to a new generation of T&M equipment.