

FTTx/PON testing reference poster



Testing FTTx and PON networks: best practices and techniques review

Each home, school, business or other type of service provider customer has different requirements when it comes to the upstream and downstream speeds of broadband delivered over fiber—from basic to ultra-fast.

To deliver the right speed to the right customer, both next-generation and legacy PONs are being deployed by overlaying multiple new wavelengths on existing fibers, which becomes challenging for technicians out in the field.

For each cycle of the network life (deployment, activation and troubleshooting) the correct tools and techniques can be different. This poster addresses the latest trends in PON technologies and techniques on how to deploy and maintain these specific fiber optic networks in the most efficient way possible.

Best practices

Connector inspection

Since faulty or dirty connectors are the number one reason behind network failures, inspecting fiber optic connectors is the vital first step to make sure they are ready to be mated. Only a fully automated FIP will give the technician the correct pass/fail result, hassle free.



Launch and receive fibers

A launch/receive fiber, packed in a convenient SPSB, is a must-have to make OTDR and iOLM measurements. By eliminating dead zones for connector A and providing extra length of fiber for connector B, it allows technicians to accurately determine link loss and link ORL, and to fully characterize connectors A and B.

Though the length will vary when using a classic OTDR (pulse width used, etc.) a minimum of only 15 m is required when using iOLM for any type of network (P2P, PTMP) thanks to Link-Aware™ technology.



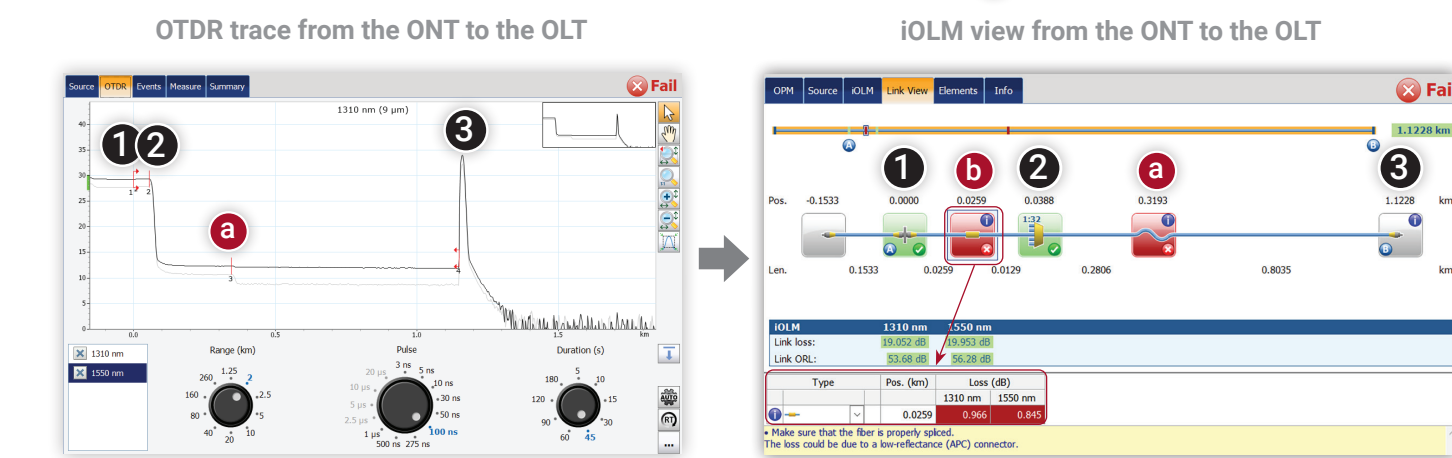
Build

Why test?

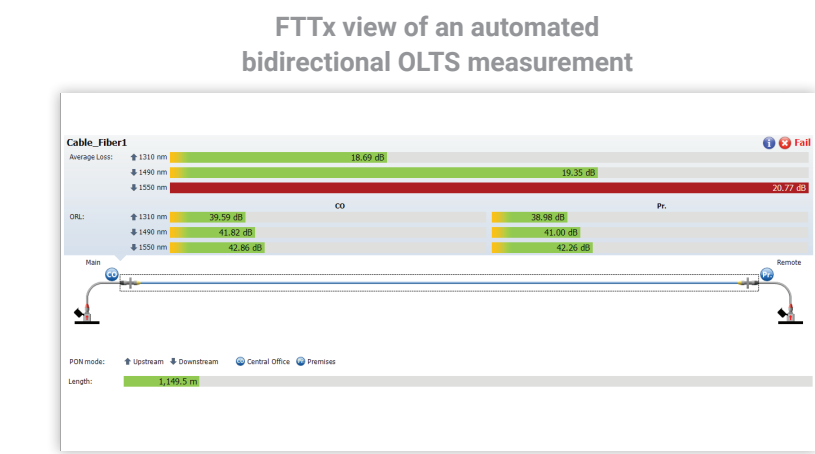
As per the ITU.G.650.3 standard, any new installation or fiber optic network upgrade should follow testing requirements to make sure the elements are within specifications and the service will be carried error-free. Testing the entire fiber network offers a strong network database for both documentation and maintenance purposes.

What to use?

- OTDR and/or iOLM at 1310 and 1550 nm to locate and characterize each element of the network. A dual wavelength measurement is paramount to detect and locate macrobends (a) and an intelligent multipulse acquisition engine is key to leave no fault behind (b).



- OLS with OPM or OLTS to validate Insertion loss is within network design:



What to look for?

- Full network visibility:**
 - Total IL, distance
 - Event mapping: splices, connectors, splitters
- Faulty events to fix:**
 - Bad connections
 - Macrobends
 - Bad splices
 - Unbalanced loss on splitter legs

- Always inspect before connecting fiber.



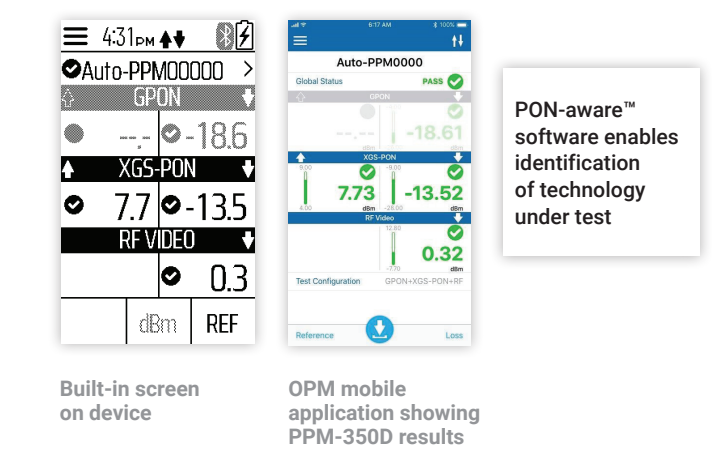
Activate

Why test?

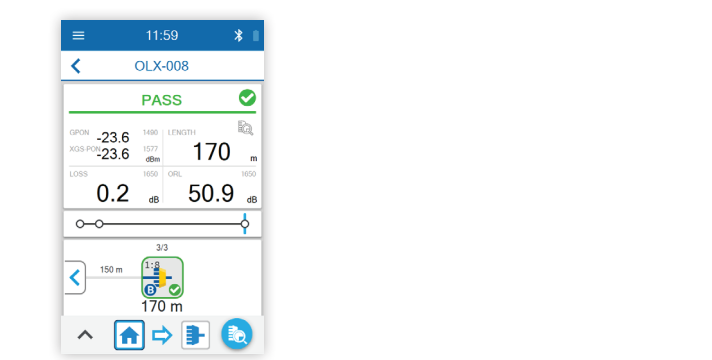
Testing during activation will provide a birth certificate of the link; a final acceptance verdict of the service and a reference for future maintenance.

What to use?

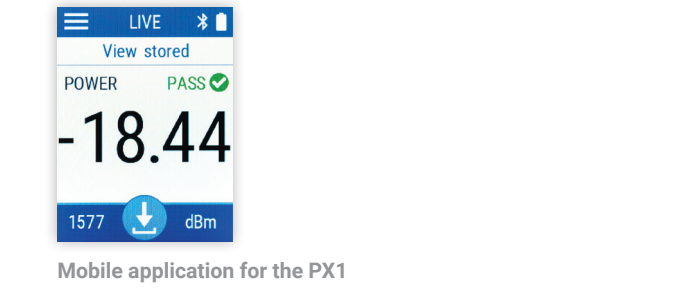
- PPM to be inserted through the link to let the OLT and ONT communicate and assess the optical power levels of the downstream/upstream signal at the same time. Recommended power measurement method when multiple PON technologies are on same fiber path (e.g., GPON+RF, GPON+XGS-PON) in order to provide discrete power by wavelength.



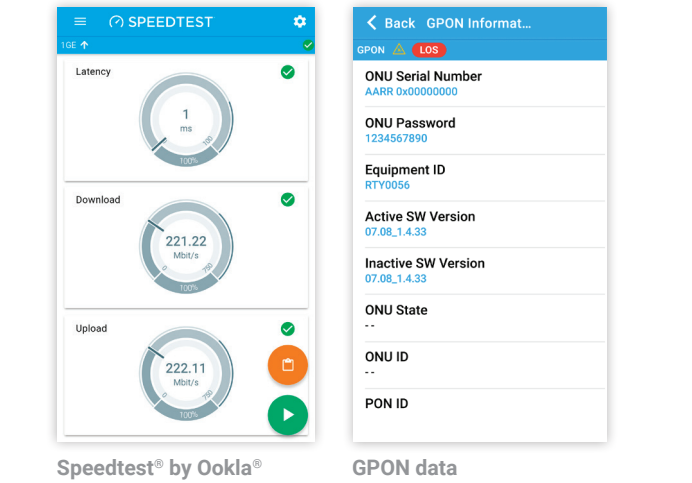
- Optical Explorer (OX1) to validate expected downstream power value and identify causes of failure on the spot. As the service is active, an out-of-band wavelength (1650 nm) on a filtered port must be used so as not to disturb the OLT and to avoid damaging equipment.



- Alternatively, an OPM or MPC may be used to validate expected downstream power value*.



- An EX1 to test the ODN loss, which provides the difference in optical power between the OLT TX and the ONT RX. Emulate the ONT with an EX1 to obtain GPON operational status, ONU ID, ONT Optical RX power, IP address, Speedtest over GPON.



What to look for?

- Bad connection at the drop terminal or the ONT
- Bad drop cable
- Faulty ONT

Troubleshoot

Why test?

Locating faults is the only way to quickly and efficiently troubleshoot the link and get the service back up. Since this is performed on live networks, tools and techniques for testing must be adapted.

What to use?

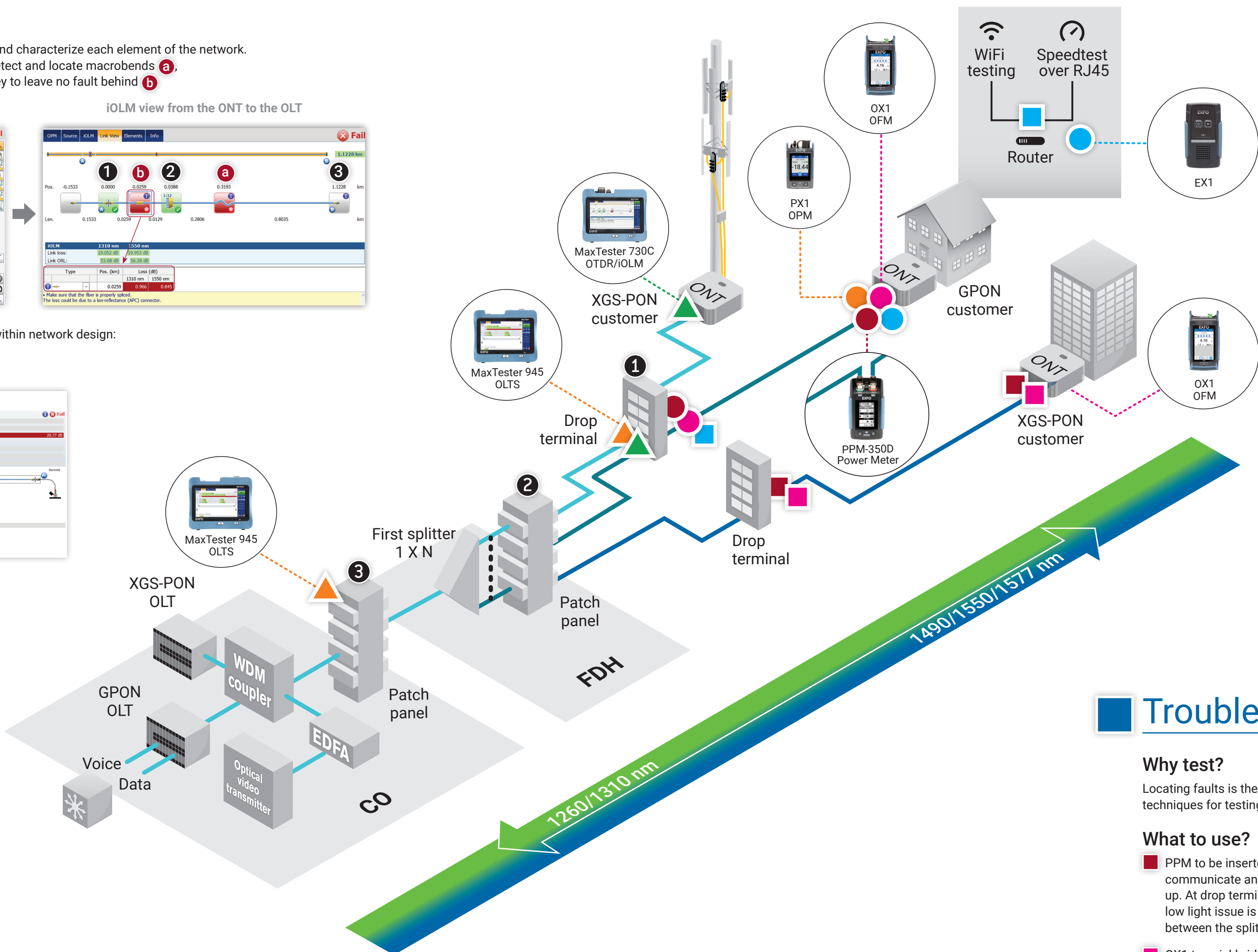
- PPM to be inserted through the link to let the OLT and ONT communicate and check if both downstream/upstream signals are up. At drop terminal, pass-through measurement will determine if a low light issue is caused by the drop side (failed upstream) or located between the splitter and drop terminal (failed downstream).
- OX1 to quickly identify any cause of failure. As the service is active, an out-of-band wavelength (1650 nm) on a filtered port must be used so as not to disturb the OLT and to avoid damaging equipment.
- EX1 to obtain the network PON ID and validate if a fiber is connected to the correct OLT card and OLT port of the card in the central office.

- Alternatively, use a live PON OTDR or iOLM to test pass the splitter up to central office.



What to look for?

- Macrobends
- Faulty splitter branches
- Fiber breaks
- Bad connector mating

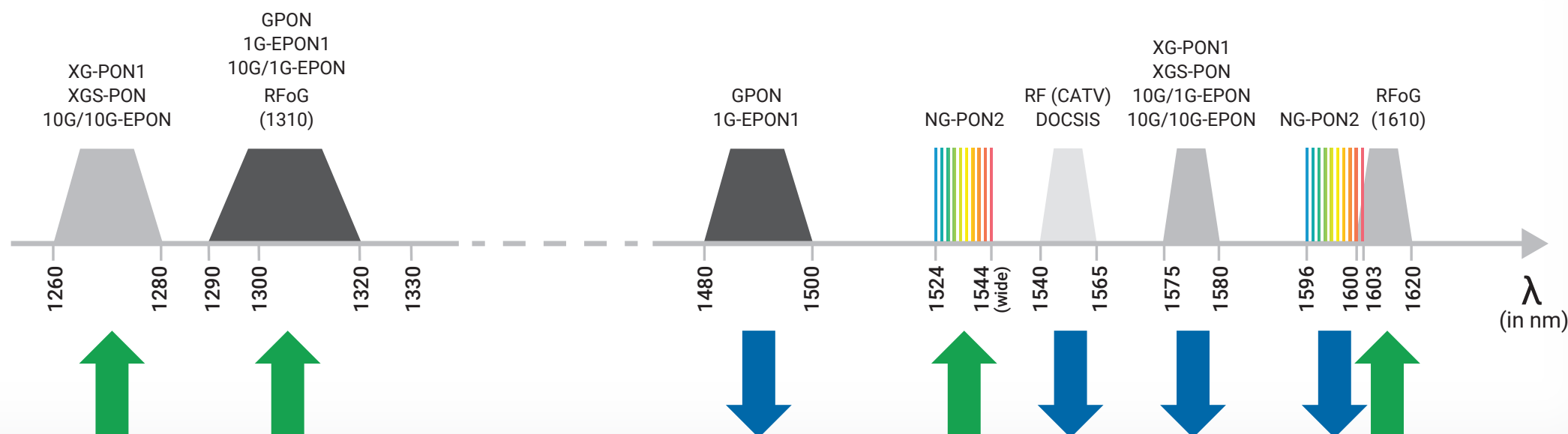


Example of a next generation PON network using GPON, RF video and XGS-PON overlay.

Trends

Available PON technologies

	Legacy and current				Next generation		
	GPON	1G-EPON1	XG-PON1	XGS-PON	10G/1G-EPON	10G/10G-EPON	NG-PON2
PON rate (down/up)	2.5G/1.25G	1.25G/1.25G	10G/2.5G	10G/10G	10G/1.25G	10G/10G	10G/10G per λ
Downstream central λ (nm)	1490 ±10	1490 ±10	1577 +3/-2	1577 +3/-2	1578 +2/-3	1578 +2/-3	1596.34 - 1597.19 1598.04 - 1598.89
Upstream central λ (nm)	1310 ±20	1310 ±50 or 1310 ±20	1270 ±10	1270 ±10	1310 ±50 or 1310 ±20	1270 ±10	1532.68 - 1533.47 1534.25 - 1535.04 (wide)
Max split ratio	1:128	1:64	1:128	1:256	1:64	1:64	1:256



Acronyms

CATV	Cable television	OLT	Optical line terminal/termination
CO	Central office	OLTS	Optical loss test set
DOCSIS	Data over cable service interface specification	ONT	Optical network terminal/termination
EDFA	Erbium-doped fiber amplifier	OPM	Optical power meter
EPON	Ethernet-based passive optical network	ORL	Optical return loss
FDH	Fiber distribution hub	OTDR	Optical time-domain reflectometer
FIP	Fiber inspection probe	P2P	Point-to-point
FTTx	Fiber-to-the-x, where x = (H)ome, (C)urb, (B)uilding, (P)remises, etc.	PM	Power meter
FUT	Fiber under test	PPM	PON power meter
GPON	Gigabit passive optical network	PON	Passive optical network
iOLM	Intelligent Optical Link Mapper	PON-aware™	Automatic PON detection technology
IP TV	Internet Protocol television	PTMP	Point-to-multipoint
ITU	International Telecommunication Union	RfOG	Radio frequency over glass
λ	Wavelength	RF	Radio frequency
MPC	Micro power checker	SM	Singlemode
NG-PON2	Next-generation passive optical network 2	SPSB	Soft pulse suppressor bag
ODN	Optical domain network	VoIP	Voice-over-internet protocol
OFM	Optical fiber multimeter	WDM	Wavelength-division multiplexing
OLS	Optical light source	XG-PON	10-gigabit-capable passive optical network
		XGS-PON	10-gigabit-capable symmetric passive optical network

