17 November

Ukrtelecom and Kyivstar extend Open Access fibre partnership across Ukraine



SCM's telecoms company Ukrtelecom and Kyivstar have scaled up their Open Access partnership to the whole of Ukraine, except Kherson region and the temporarily occupied territories. Each company can now use part of the other's fibre

network to connect its own customers. This means households and businesses can choose their internet provider, no matter who owns the network in their building. The two companies remain competitors.

So what exactly is Open Access?

Open Access is a model in which telecoms operators share their infrastructure. Ukrtelecom and Kyivstar now share part of their fibre networks. For example, if a building previously had only a Ukrtelecom network, a resident could not connect to Kyivstar through it. Now they can, and vice versa.

The model was tested for several months in Odesa, Vinnytsia and Kirovohrad regions, where the first stage covered about 400,000 households. It now covers the national networks of both companies.

What does this change for customers?

Customers get more choice. They check whether a service is available at their address and order it from the provider they prefer.

> "The customer will be able to choose an operator regardless of who owns the specific fibre network," said **Yurii Kurmaz, CEO of Ukrtelecom**.

Each operator still sets its own prices and looks after its own customers. No extra charges for subscribers have appeared, either in the first three regions or after the national launch.
Are Ukrtelecom and Kyivstar now partners or competitors?

Both. The companies are partners in sharing infrastructure, but they will continue to compete on prices, package offers, service and internet quality. The agreement is not exclusive, so both companies can make similar deals with other operators.

> "Open Access makes it possible to use infrastructure that has already been built more efficiently and not to duplicate networks where one

already exists," said **Oleksandr Komarov, CEO of Kyivstar**.

Why does this matter for Ukrtelecom?

Ukrtelecom has over 95,000 km of fibre lines, and its own GPON network reaches about 3.34 million households. Not all of this capacity is fully used today. Open Access lets the company earn income from its existing network. It can also connect new customers in areas covered by Kyivstar without building new lines.

How does this fit into the bigger picture?

Open Access brings Ukraine's market closer to European practice. Similar models work through Openreach and CityFibre in the UK and through Open Fiber in Italy.

Throughout the full-scale war, Ukrtelecom has continued to build thousands of kilometres of fibre lines each year and to make its network more energy-independent and resilient. This reflects the strategy of our shareholder Rinat Akhmetov to keep investing in Ukraine's resilience infrastructure.

Ukrtelecom is one of Ukraine's largest electronic communications operators and the leading national fixed-line operator. It has been part of SCM since 2013.