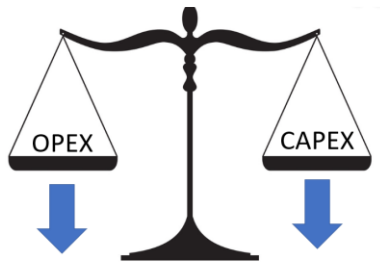


FAST™ PLUS - a better solution

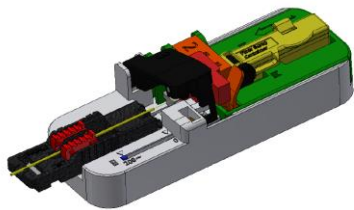
The Fujikura FAST™ series has been a market leader in the area of mechanical pre-polished field installable connectors for over 20 years, supplying millions of connectors every month to the global FTTH market. In order to maintain its global position, it must stay at the forefront of innovation. The FAST™ PLUS is our latest solution offering.

So, what's new? The two biggest areas of change in the FAST™ is the introduction of a special cleave tool and the use of a new type of index matching material, called 'solid gum' which is combined with the existing index matching gel.

So why change a winning formula? The changes are of course driven by customer feedback and research. One of the main points is the demand from operators for solutions which address the growing EU skills shortage and at the same time foster a reduction in CAPEX/OPEX in optical network deployment.



How does a change in cleaver address these two points? Due to the blade design and operation, the FASTCLEAVE™

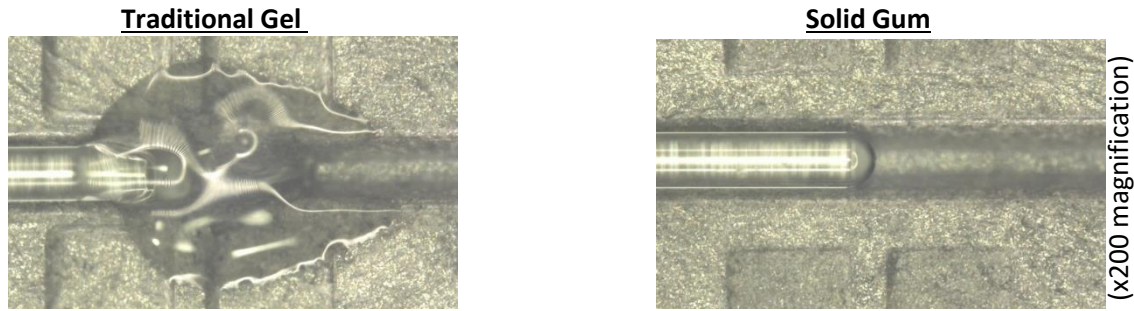


produces a highly repeatable and high-quality fibre cleave condition which enables an exceptional 'first time pass' connection; meaning an OPEX reduction in customer site revisits. Due to the fact Fujikura supply the FASTCLEAVE™ as a pre-packaged accessory with every box of FAST™ PLUS; the CAPEX normally associated with the use of a high precision cleave tool is therefore completely negated. However, costs associated with the high precision cleave tool are not just limited to the unit price, but what should also be considered are the intrinsic costs due to their need for regular maintenance, but also any repairs, loss and unfortunately theft.

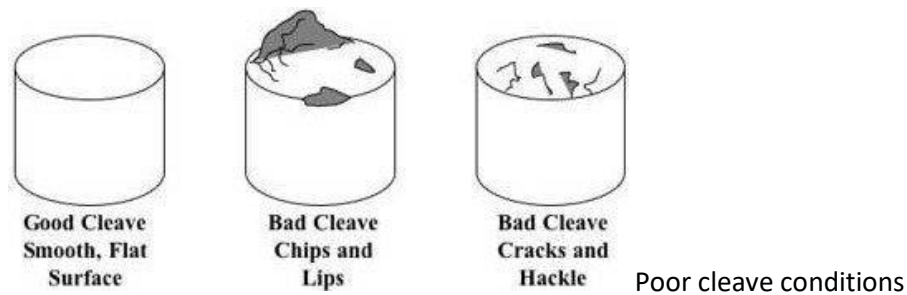
TRADITIONAL CLEAVER	 Maintenance	 Loss	FASTCLEAVE™	 Maintenance	 Loss
	 Repair	 Theft		 Repair	 Theft
	Vs.				

FAST™ PLUS - a better solution

How does a solid gum benefit the FAST™ PLUS?

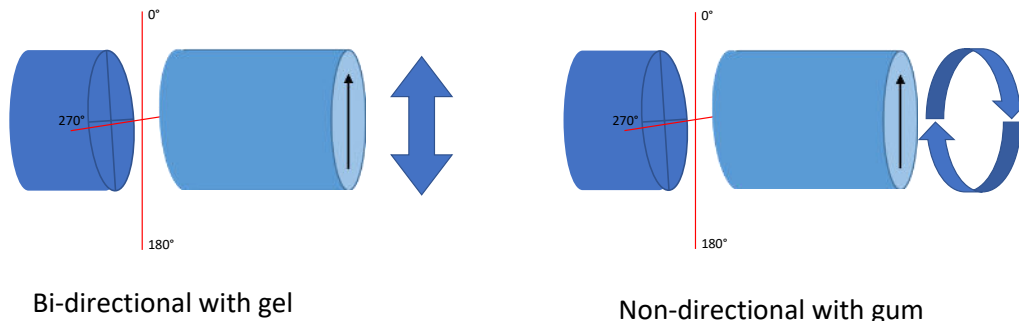


Traditionally the use of a high-quality index matching gel would have been enough for the termination of optical fibres, but this was on the basis you are flat cleaving with a high precision cleave tool which has seen regular maintenance. However, if the high precision cleave tool has not been serviced regularly or the blade position or blade height has not been altered in accordance with the owner manual, there is an ever-increasing risk of poor cleave conditions.



These poor cleave conditions, can cause a multitude of issues during and after installation. One of these issues is 'damage to the FAST fiber stub (i.e. this is the fiber already affixed inside the FAST) resulting from the rapid insertion of a poorly cleaved fibre', however the solid gums thixotropic formula acts similar to an 'air-bag' and so significantly reduces this risk of accidental damage.

Are there any other benefits to Solid gum? When using angled fibres in a field connector which utilizes a standard index matching gel; you have two choices: you must maintain either a zero degree offset or a 180 degree offset, otherwise you are risking a poor connection (IL/RL). With the solid gum, you can have anything between zero degree offset to 359 degree offset.



In conclusion, the FAST™ PLUS product range will benefit operators in their FTTH networks builds, especially in their access network where speed, accuracy and repeatable good results matter.