

OZ Optics leverages fiber optic R&D into more than 20 years of successful productization

OZ Optics founder and CEO Ömür Sezerman capitalized on optics in Ottawa 105 years after Alexander Graham Bell decided that his wireless optical “photophone” was a better idea

Fast facts Corporate profile

OZ Optics attracts a broad range of customers in the telecommunications, cable television, medical, military, industrial, aerospace, oil and gas, power-line, petrochemical and educational sectors. OZ Optics was the first company in the world to introduce optical polarization maintaining components and test equipment to the marketplace. It was also the first company to integrate wireless technology into its designs of remote fiber optic measurement systems and instruments.

Why Ottawa

OZ Optics benefits significantly from its location in Ottawa’s talent-rich telecom heartland that embraces campuses for Ericsson, Cisco, RIM, Huawei and Alcatel-Lucent. It also takes advantage of university research and partnerships across the city to provide its customers with the highest quality service and technical expertise.

Business advantage

Today, OZ Optics applies its expertise and patented technologies to enable “smart structures” with built-in next generation sensors that automatically detect damage, leaks or high temperatures in power-lines, pipelines and even bricks and walls.

In 1880 Alexander Graham Bell developed an optical voice transmission system he called the photophone. The invention used free-space light to carry the human voice 200 meters. The changing intensity of light altered the current that passed through the telephone receiver, which then converted the light back into speech. Bell believed this invention was superior to the telephone he invented just four years earlier because it did not require wires to connect the transmitter and receiver. 105 years after the photophone, another entrepreneur, Ömür Sezerman, started OZ Optics Limited.



Canada's Creative Economy Capital

By 1985, the telecommunications industry was finally exploiting the potential of Bell’s wireless discovery, and Sezerman started his Ottawa company to take advantage of global growth in fiber optics.

OZ Optics was the first company in the world to introduce optical polarization-maintaining components and test equipment to the fiber optic marketplace. It was also the first company to integrate wireless technology into its designs of remote fiber optic measurement systems and instruments.

Over its 25-year history, OZ Optics has been recognized with numerous awards for innovation and achievement, including most recently the 2009 Frost & Sullivan Best Practices Award for its Distributed Strain and Temperature Sensor.

OZ Optics attracts a broad range of customers in the telecommunications, cable television, medical, military, security, industrial, construction, aerospace, power utilities, petrochemical and educational sectors. OZ Optics is ISO 9001:2008 certified.

The oil and gas sector can use OZ Optics distributed sensors to detect leakages and cracks in oil rigs, while the engineering and construction sector can prevent bridge collapses, which are becoming more prevalent as highway infrastructure ages in many countries.

OZ Optics continues its leadership role in polarization maintaining components, fiber optic sensors and test equipment. The company is also well known for its custom design work.

Today OZ Optics applies its expertise and patented technologies to enable “smart structures” with built-in next-generation sensors that automatically detect damage, leaks or high temperatures in power lines, pipelines, bridges, dams, oil wells, buildings, fences, etc.

Why Ottawa

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The company’s Ottawa head office is co-located with a manufacturing, research and development, and administration facility with approximately 100,000 square feet.

OZ Optics has sales offices in Florida, California, Georgia, and has established manufacturing facilities in Turkey and

China. Its global footprint widens further via partnerships with distributors and resellers in thirty one countries.

The OZ Optics leadership team believes that participating in local, national and international communities allows the company to prosper. Sezerman is a soccer enthusiast, and built the “OZ Dome” indoor soccer sports centre and attached restaurant, patio and bar for both the use of OZ Optics employees and community soccer clubs to help promote soccer and sports activities of all kinds in a year-round facility.

Business advantage

The applications served by the new generation OZ Optics distributed sensors open up markets unavailable to traditional sensors. It would require hundreds of thousands of traditional sensors to get information across a large building or structure, which isn’t cost effective. OZ Optics distributed sensors offer complete coverage and reduce installation costs. For instance, the oil and gas sector can use OZ Optics distributed sensors to detect leakages and cracks in oil rigs, while the engineering and construction sector can prevent bridge collapses, which are becoming more prevalent as highway infrastructure ages in many countries.

Future growth plans

In addition to the company’s new line of distributed sensors, OZ Optics continues its leadership role in polarization maintaining components and test equipment.

The company’s growth strategy includes expanding its leading-edge R&D program, leveraging patented technology and proprietary expertise, developing new customer relationships while growing existing relationships, increasing sales and marketing efforts, and expanding manufacturing capacity to improve operating efficiency.

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