

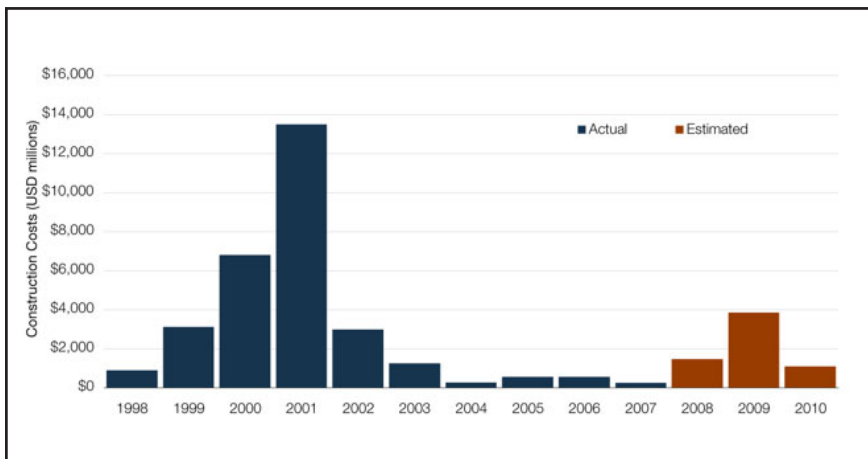
SFOCS Submarine

FIBER OPTIC COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS

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**Construction Cost of Submarine Cables,
1998-2010**



Source: Telegeography

TOP NEWS

KDDI, Rostelecom deploy 900km fiber-optic cable between Japan and Russia

According to the NHK channel, Japan-based KDDI and Russia's Rostelecom have deployed an optical fiber cable across the East Sea (Sea of Japan). The two firms laid down two 900km lines between the city of Joetsu in Japan and the Russia-based city of Nakhodka. The cables would be able to transmit data at 640 Gigabits per second (Gbps). The channel

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stated that the commercial operations on this telecommunications line are likely to start by September.

On June 3, another submarine optical fiber cable was unveiled between Nevelsk and Ishikari, Hokkaido.

This formed a part of the project undertaken by TransTelecom and NTT Communications.

MTN to roll out a new 5,000km fiber-optic cable network

South African telecom firm MTN plans to invest around R1.4-billion for constructing a 5,000km optical fiber network in South Africa. According to Tim Lowry, MTN's managing director for South Africa, the company would spend this amount in association with other service providers, hinting that the figure could increase a bit.

The group plans to deploy the national landline network by 2010, saving around \$835.79 million over the next 10 years. It also plans to save \$371.46 million as operational expenditures over this period. It is believed that MTN plans to deploy its fiber-optic cable in a tie-up with South Africa's second biggest landline operator, Neotel. Mr. Lowry said that MTN SA intends to invest \$33.16 million for constructing the fiber-optic network around hotels and stadiums ahead of the 2010 Soccer World Cup.

Globacom's 9,500km undersea cable likely to get completed in May 2009

According to Globacom COO Mohammed Jameel, the Nigerian communications service provider's 9,500km submarine cable worth \$250 million is likely to be completed by May 2009. Mr. Jameel said that the "Glo" undersea cable is likely to cover Ghana by May 2009 and Nigeria a little while later.

He added that the cable would run from London, UK, to 14 West Africa countries and would have a dedicated connection to the

US. This cable would enable Globacom to increase the number of its services.

CONTRACTS

Alcatel-Lucent signs new contract to build the Atlantic-Mediterranean segment of the Europe India Gateway submarine cable network

Alcatel-Lucent has signed a contract to deploy the Atlantic-Mediterranean segment of the 15,000km (9,000-mile) Europe India Gateway (EIG) submarine cable system. EIG is the first direct, high-bandwidth optical-fiber submarine cable system from the United Kingdom to India, and will significantly enhance capacity and diversity between the countries and territories of three continents. With completion scheduled in the second quarter of 2010, EIG will deliver an ultimate capacity of up to 3.84 terabits per second (Tbps) to provide upgradeable transmission facilities that support Internet, e-commerce, video, data, and voice services.

EIG was announced in May 2008 in London by the EIG Consortium. Currently EIG Consortium members include AT&T; Bharti Airtel; BT; C&W; Djibouti Telecom; du; Gibtelecom; Libyan Post, Telecom, and Information Technology Company (LPTIC); MTN Group Ltd.; Omantel; PT Comunicações, S.A.; Saudi Telecom Company; Telecom Egypt; Telkom SA Ltd.; and Verizon Business. Alcatel-Lucent is one of two submarine cable network suppliers for the project, which has a total value of over US\$700 million.

EIG will connect three continents, with landings planned in the United Kingdom, Portugal, Gibraltar, Monaco, France, Libya, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Djibouti, Oman, United Arab Emirates, and India. Providing much-needed diversity for broadband traffic currently relying largely on traditional routes from Europe to India, EIG will also provide seamless interconnection with other major cable systems

connecting Europe, Africa, Asia, and North America.

Alcatel-Lucent will provide complete turnkey work for its portion of the EIG system. Alcatel-Lucent will have responsibility for the design, manufacture, installation, and commissioning of the Atlantic-Mediterranean submarine segment, which spans 7,100km. The company will also use the 1678 Metro Core Connect, and deploy its latest-generation 1626 Light Manager (LM) DWDM (dense wavelength division multiplexing) transmission equipment to provide seamless connectivity across the two terrestrial links in the UK and Egypt at 40Gbps. The Alcatel-Lucent offering across the EIG system provides terabit transmission capabilities to accelerate the delivery of broadband services and applications.

“EIG utilises the most advanced submarine cable system technology to provide a high quality solution to help meet the continued growth of broadband adoption rates around the world,” said Mr. John Russell, chairman of the EIG Consortium Management Committee. “Alcatel-Lucent’s turnkey expertise and technological lead in the build of submarine networks will help us deliver a highly flexible and scalable infrastructure that will support the delivery of innovative applications across the regions.”

“EIG further confirms the need for cable route diversity and enhanced capacity to meet end-users’ demands for bandwidth to support broadband traffic,” said Etienne Lafougère, president of Alcatel-Lucent’s submarine network activity. “This new contract is recognition of the reliability of our submarine, terrestrial and network solutions, as well as of our end-to-end ability to provide every part of a global transport network.”

THUS signs £12 million contract with FARICE

THUS announced that it has signed a £12 million agreement with FARICE, the operator of the underwater cabling network that

links Iceland to the rest of the world, to provide it with high-bandwidth network connectivity in the UK. THUS is providing 200Gbps of capacity to support the anticipated growth in Iceland’s “green” datacenters and server farms that use natural geothermal and hydroelectric sources of energy.

The agreement with THUS is part of a major initiative to globally connect Iceland to other major datacenters across the world such as New York, Frankfurt, Amsterdam, and London. THUS will initially provide two 10x10Gbps network connections stretching from Dunnet Bay in Northern Scotland, the landing station of the FARICE submarine cable, to London Telehouse. These connections will be used to carry data and Internet traffic for FARICE customers, typically major multinationals who have elected to locate their datacenters and servers in Iceland in order to take advantage of lower-cost, green power.

THUS will deploy a dense wave division multiplexing (DWDM) solution, which not only will supply the initial capacity but will have the capability to expand in the future, allowing FARICE to take advantage of the full 720Gbps of capacity available to them, as demand requires. This solution will significantly contribute to Iceland’s growing reputation and technical capabilities as a primary location for global businesses to locate mission-critical back office support systems, including offshore complex Web hosting services.

Gudmundur Gunnarsson, chief executive officer at FARICE, said, “As we develop the data centre and server farm industry in Iceland, we are giving businesses with burgeoning carbon footprints and data storage costs the chance to boost their green credentials while saving them money. We are investing heavily in bandwidth connections through strategically important underwater cables and backhaul networks to capitalise on our many competitive advantages. We trust THUS to deliver a future proofed network infrastructure that meets our stringent

criteria for capacity, scalability and robustness using advanced, proven technologies.”

Bill Allan, chief executive officer at THUS plc, said, “We have a long-standing relationship with FARICE dating back to 2002 when we worked with them to provide the backhaul for the first sub-sea cable since 1962 to land in Scotland and since then, we’ve continued to work with them as bandwidth capacity demands have grown.

To put this in context, the contract we’ve announced, 200Gbps of capacity, is enough capacity to run 3million concurrent phone calls; very few providers in the UK have a network capable of supporting such high bandwidth demands. We are delighted to be supporting FARICE to deliver the network infrastructure necessary to underpin Iceland’s evolution towards becoming the world’s leading provider of ‘green’ data centres.”

E-Marine upgrades cable ship for oil and gas work

E-Marine PJSC, a provider of submarine cable installation, maintenance, and repair in the Middle East, announced the successful attainment of CS NIWA after its upgrade to DP II, which will allow it to perform surgical operations in very close proximity to oil and gas platforms.

DP II is a requirement for the installation, repair, or maintenance of telecommunications and power cables in the oil fields in general and in the closest proximity to oil and gas platforms in particular.

“The completion of this CS NIWA DP II up grade raises the benchmark for Oilfield cable services in the Gulf and Indian Ocean,” said Omar Jassim Bin Kalban, managing director and CEO of E-Marine.

“Cable Ship NIWA is now a very well qualified vessel for operating in the closer proximity to oil and gas platforms, ensuring the maximum safety and highest service levels for the Oil & Gas industry.

This is a tremendous achievement and we look forward to extending these services across the region.”

Dynamic positioning (DP) is a computer-controlled system to automatically maintain a ship’s position and heading by using her own propellers and thrusters. Position reference sensors, combined with wind sensors, motion sensors, and gyrocompasses, provide information to the computer pertaining to the vessel’s position and the magnitude and direction of environmental forces affecting its position.

The computer program contains a mathematical model of the vessel that includes information pertaining to the wind and current drag of the vessel and the location of the thrusters. This knowledge, combined with the sensor information, allows the computer to calculate the required steering angle and thruster output for each thruster. This allows operations at sea where mooring or anchoring is not feasible due to deep water, congestion on the sea bottom (pipelines, templates), or other problems.

The Cable Ship NIWA is capable of servicing platforms anywhere in the Arabian Gulf and also off the coast of East Africa. It has a gross tonnage of 13,201 tons with a cable uplift capacity of 6,098m/t and a speed of 15 knots. It can accommodate up to 138 persons and can be at sea for a continuous period of 60 days.

All crew are duly experienced in cable installation and repair, as well as in undertaking all marine offshore oilfield activities. The vessel is manned by sufficient and qualified crew to guarantee 24-hour operation.

Gtd Manquehue selects Alcatel-Lucent to deploy first FTTH network in Chile based on GPON technology

Alcatel-Lucent announced that it has been selected by Gtd Group, one of the main service providers in Chile, to deploy the country’s first network based on fiber-to-the-

home (FTTH) Gigabit passive optical network (GPON) technology. Installation and deployment of the GPON network will start in the third quarter of 2008, initially serving residential broadband users in Santiago's prestigious Santa María de Manquehue district, with other neighborhoods of Chile's capital city following shortly after.

Alcatel-Lucent's solution will enable Gtd Manquehue, which serves residential customers and small and midsized businesses for the Gtd Group, to deliver advanced broadband services such as high-definition television (HDTV), Internet Protocol television (IPTV), video-on-demand (VoD), and high-speed Internet. Alcatel-Lucent's GPON architecture also will enable Gtd Manquehue to seamlessly migrate its traditional voice services to voice-over-IP (VoIP).

"We selected GPON technology so we can offer our customers unlimited triple-play and advanced business services backed with a richer quality of experience, which we think will better serve our residential and business customers and give us a competitive advantage in this market," said Alberto Domínguez, general manager of Gtd Manquehue. "Alcatel-Lucent's worldwide leadership in broadband and their experienced local services teams will help Gtd Manquehue successfully deploy this new fiber infrastructure, the first of its kind in Chile."

"Operators are facing an increasingly competitive environment so the evolution toward fiber is the next logical step they need to take to strengthen their position," said Victor Agnellini, president of Alcatel-Lucent's activities in the Caribbean and Latin America region. "Alcatel-Lucent has been an important supplier of optical and IP/MPLS solutions to Gtd Group, and we are fully committed to support the evolution of this operator's network, as they launch innovative services to their customers."

Gtd Manquehue will deploy the Alcatel-Lucent 7342 Intelligent Services Access Manager Fiber-to-the-User (ISAM FTTU) and the Alcatel-Lucent 5520 Access Management System for element management. The 7342

ISAM FTTU has been the market's first platform to comply with the GPON recommendations of the Full Service Access Network (FSAN) group.

NEW CABLES

BT links to Scottish Isles

BT is laying a new fiber-optic submarine cable between Orkney and the Scottish mainland to help bring its 21st Century Network to the Northern Isles.

The 70km cable will run from Skail Bay in Orkney under the Pentland Firth to Dunnet Bay, around five miles east of Thurso.

BT has awarded the contract to independent marine engineering company Global Marine Systems Ltd. (Global Marine). Weather permitting, the work should be completed in around three weeks.

Global Marine's cables ship CS Sovereign is using its submersible plough and remotely operated vehicle systems to install the cable up to one meter below the seabed.

The new cable is the latest step towards bringing BT's 21 Century Network — the world's most radical next-generation communications transformation program — to the islands.

BT has already reached agreement with Faroese Telecom to share part of a new fiber-optic submarine cable that has been laid between the Faroe Islands, Orkney, and Shetland and the Scottish mainland.

The cable, which comes ashore at Banff, will provide connectivity to the Northern Isles alongside existing microwave radio links.

Japan-Russia cable lit

TransTeleCom Company CJSC (TTK), a Russian telecommunications backbone operator, and NTT Communications Corporation (NTT Com) announced that the Hokkaido-Sakhalin Cable System (HSCS) — which directly links the two companies' telecom networks via an undersea cable between Nevelsk, Sakhalin, in Russia and Ishikari,

Hokkaido, Japan — began commercial operation on July 3.

The two companies jointly started to construct the fiber-optic submarine cable HSCS in 2007, and the work was completed in December 2007. HSCS measures 570km in length and has a capacity of 640Gbps. Its startup gives NTT Com the shortest route between Japan and Europe, compared with existing cable routes through southern Asia and the United States, by connecting the cable to the TTK's extensive backbone network in Russia, which exceeds 55,000km.

The HSCS route will enable NTT Com to provide the following high-reliability, high-quality services:

- Global Leased Line — NTT Com will provide additional offering in Arcstar Global Leased Line Service using the new route and taking orders starting now. It is estimated to shorten the latency within the company's backbone by 20 percent to 30 percent compared to the existing routes.

- Global IP-VPNs — The HSCS route will be added to the backbone of NTT Com's secure, scalable Arcstar Global IP-VPN Service (MPLS) beginning August 2008.

- Transit Service — The HSCS route will be added to NTT Com's global IP Tier 1 network covering Asia-Pacific Europe and North America, with connection to major ISPs worldwide, beginning now.

Omantel signs agreement to extend MENA cable to Oman

Oman Telecommunications Company (Omantel) and Middle East and North Africa Company (MENA) of Egypt have recently signed an agreement on the landing of a submarine fiber-optic cable on the Omani coast to enhance international telecommunications traffic between the Sultanate of Oman and the world.

Dr. Mohammed Bin Ali Al-Wohaibi, the chief executive officer of Omantel, signed the agreement on behalf of Omantel, while Dr. Nagi

Anis, the director of Middle East and North Africa Cable Project, signed the agreement on behalf of MENA Company.

In a statement, Dr. Mohammed Bin Ali Al-Wohaibi stressed the importance of the agreement, as it would introduce huge capacities for submarine cables in the Sultanate. The project would provide great services for international telecommunications traffic, especially the Internet, through fiber optics in case of any cable cutoffs. It would provide alternative lines for international telecom network, as well as upgradeable transmission facilities in support of Internet, e-commerce, video, data, and voice.

Dr. Al-Wohaibi said that Omantel constantly seeks to make the Sultanate an important hub for international telecom traffic through a submarine cables network that guarantees uninterrupted telecom traffic between the Sultanate and world countries on one hand and between world countries themselves on the other. This was made possible in view of the strategic location of the Sultanate.

Therefore, many companies endeavor to exploit the Sultanate's secure location between the East and the West to facilitate the international telecom traffic.

Omantel's CEO indicated that the MENA Cable Project, which is implemented by the Middle East and North Africa Company, an affiliate of Orascom Telecom, is vital for the telecom sector as a whole because the cable passes through many countries besides the Sultanate of Oman, including Mazara in Sicily, Italy; Crete in Greece; Alexandria and Suez in Egypt; Jeddah in Saudi Arabia; and India.

The cable landing point will be executed in Wilayat Al Seeb, where Omantel Submarine Cables Center is located. This center is used as the main hub for submarine fiber-optic cables landing in the Sultanate. Dr. Al-Wohaibi added that the total cost of the MENA Cable project is about US\$400 million.

The 8,000-kilometer-long cable, which would provide a total capacity of 5.7Tbps, will arrive at Wilayat Al Seeb during the third quarter of 2009.

Omantel would achieve great benefit from the MENA cable, as it will enable the company to provide its subscribers with large capacities, besides the fact that it would provide new tracks in case of any mishaps in any submarine cable lines. Dr. Al-Wohaibi indicated that Omantel is always seeking to diversify its income mix through the agreements it concludes with international companies, especially in the area of submarine cables, which have become of great importance to telecom traffic. Submarine cables have also gained great interest of world companies and countries, being the most important element to facilitate the international telecom traffic in the next stage, the company said in its statement.

Omantel CEO noted that the company has recently jointed 15 international telecom companies in signing the Europe-India Gateway project for the building of an international broadband fiber-optic submarine cable extending from the United Kingdom to India and passing through the Sultanate of Oman and other countries. The US\$700 million EIG project would enhance diversity in the service of these fast-growing regions in the telecom sector and investment environment.

Dr. Al-Wohaibi added that the submarine cable system is designed to provide a range of communications up to 2.88Tbps using dense wavelength division multiplexing (DWDM) technology to provide upgradeable transmission facilities that support Internet, e-commerce, video, data, and voice.

Oman Telecommunications Company (Omantel) is the sole integrated telecommunications services provider in Oman. The Sultanate of Oman, through its strategic location on the crossroad of the Gulf, Middle East, and Indian subcontinent, has become a major landing point for global cable connections

including FALCON, SEA-ME-WE-3, and TW-1. In addition, Omantel has established direct links with its adjacent neighbors in the region. Omantel is currently working on additional cable landings to extend its reach to all continents. Furthermore, it possesses a resilient network that is capable of providing uninterrupted service to its customers.

Subsea work begins on fiber-optic cable network in Southeast Alaska

Engineers skilled in laying undersea telecommunications cable will begin working in Southeast Alaska waters in July, placing 750 miles of fiber-optic cable on the ocean floor, GCI officials announced.

For residents in Ketchikan, Wrangell, Petersburg, Angoon, and Sitka, this means high-speed connections for Internet, phone, and video; in Juneau, residents will benefit from additional fiber-optic cable, creating a self-healing fiber ring within Southeast Alaska.

Shore-end operations are scheduled to commence July 18 in Ketchikan. Shore-end operations in Wrangell will be about four days later; in Petersburg, about three days later; and in Sitka about 15 days later.

The \$33 million project will connect five more communities to the Alaska United West line that currently connects Alaska to the lower 48, providing alternate routing and overflow traffic-handling capabilities for residents of these Southeast communities. GCI expects the system to be complete by November 2008.

"This fiber-optic network will provide new and faster services to more than 50,000 people in Southeast Alaska," said Richard Dowling, GCI's senior vice president of corporate development. "The addition to our network is another important step in creating and maintaining a self-healing telecommunications network."

Residents in Ketchikan, Wrangell, Petersburg, Sitka, and Angoon are currently served through microwave and satellite

networks. The fiber-optic link will be more reliable and faster than microwave and satellite networks. Residents in other Southeast communities will also benefit with the reduction in demand on the existing systems. GCI owns two of the three networks currently tying Alaska to the lower 48.

Advantages of fiber include high information-carrying capacity (bandwidth), very low error rates, and insensitivity to electromagnetic interference.

The new fiber network will meet the ever-growing capacity requirements of the residents in Southeast Alaska and has the capacity to keep up with the growth of both current and potential Internet, wireless, phone, and video services. In addition, the network will allow Southeast residents access to more medical and educational opportunities from their own communities through GCI's ConnectMD and SchoolAccess networks.

"The quality of life and the potential for economic development increase as community access to telecommunications services increase," said Dowling.

"From small business owners looking to increase their client base to employees who can be hired to work remotely via telecommunications, a robust network positively affects all Alaskans."

Marine routing of the cable was carefully planned with safety and historical uses of the seafloor in mind. Stakeholders in the area were consulted, including local fishermen, pilots, the United States Coast Guard, harbormasters, and other permit agencies. The subsea cable follows the Inside Passage from Ketchikan to Juneau, then heads south to connect to Angoon and west to connect to Sitka.

GCI obtained permits from the US Army Corps of Engineers, the USDA Forest Service, the Alaska Department of Natural Resources, various local agencies, and local municipalities where the fiber comes on shore. Public input was also solicited along with comments from

the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

GCI is the largest telecommunications company in Alaska. GCI operates Alaska's most extensive terrestrial/subsea fiber-optic network. The fiber network extends from the North Slope oil production facilities through Fairbanks, Juneau, and Anchorage. The company's satellite network provides communications services to small towns throughout rural Alaska. The company is in the process of constructing Alaska's first truly statewide mobile wireless network, which will seamlessly link urban and rural Alaska for the first time. GCI is also a provider of communications services to enterprise customers, particularly large business customers with complex data networking needs. More information about the company can be found at www.gci.com.

Global Crossing inaugurates submarine cable in Costa Rica's pacific coast

Global Crossing, a global IP solutions provider, announced the lighting of its new fiber-optic submarine cable in Esterillos of Parrita, Puntarenas. Global Crossing; Instituto Costarricense de Electricidad (ICE), the state-run entity responsible for Costa Rica's telecommunications; and the Radiográfica Costarricense S.A. (RACSA) hosted a ceremony at the new Unqui cable station in the town of Esterillos.

This much-anticipated fiber-optic submarine cable will facilitate the expansion of ICE's international network to the rest of the world through Global Crossing's network, allowing Costa Rica to increase reliability of its international telecommunications and strengthen the country's competitiveness, not only within Latin America, but on a worldwide scale.

"We're excited to reinforce our partnership with ICE in this initiative to expand Costa Rica's telecommunications services and increased connectivity around the world. This

agreement is another step in the ongoing, cooperative effort between ICE, RACSA and Global Crossing to promote the continuous social and economic growth of the country," said John Legere, Global Crossing's CEO.

The new cable connection is an extension of the Pan American Crossing (PAC), which connects the United States' west coast, Mexico, Panama, Venezuela, and the Virgin Islands, in addition to the east coast of the United States, South America, Europe, and Asia, via Global Crossing's other underwater cable systems.

With the new Global Crossing connection, Costa Rica will benefit from the security, reliability, and global reach of Global Crossing's high-quality IP network. Additionally, this joint project provides ICE with a reliable international network infrastructure on both coasts, supporting the exponential growth of Internet traffic and transport of mission-critical IP business applications in the region.

ICE's capacity to transport international traffic will increase, as will the possibilities for businesses in the region. As an example, the new bandwidth enables the transmission of approximately 185 million emails per second, assuming an average email of 20KB; allows 2.5 million people to watch a video online, assuming 1.5Mbps per connection; and can handle 60 million phone calls. Global Crossing's branch reaching Costa Rica has a design capacity of 256 STM1 equivalents, allowing for future increases in capacity as ICE's service requirements grow.

ICE has modernized and expanded its communications infrastructure at an international level, enabling national and multinational companies in the country to speed the flow information.

The new cable landing is an important milestone for Costa Rica as it strives to develop a telecommunications infrastructure that will support the country's fast-growing demand for broadband applications.

Columbus Networks completes landing station in Boca Raton

Columbus Networks has completed construction of a cable landing station in Boca Raton, Florida, marking the last major step before activating an \$80 million express undersea fiber-optic route that connects South America with the United States via Colombia and Florida.

The state-of-the-art landing station in Boca Raton is one of three along the 2,400km undersea fiber-optic cable route. The other two stations are in Morant Point, Jamaica, and Cartagena, Colombia. Columbus Networks and its affiliate companies now operate 35 landing stations throughout the Americas and Caribbean regions, offering what its claims is an unmatched broadband network of multiple self-healing fiber rings for ensuring high performance and network reliability.

"Boca Raton continues to develop as an international gateway for telecommunications access between the United States and the Caribbean and Latin America Region," contended Paul Scott, president of Columbus Networks. From Boca Raton, Columbus Networks is the only network provider with a direct express route to Colombia.

"Columbus Networks' new landing station in Boca Raton creates geographical diversity from the current concentration of cable landings in Miami," he continued. "This significantly lessens the risk of service disruptions caused by major weather disasters as it is unlikely these will simultaneously hit both locations with sufficient force to impact our hardened facilities."

For network redundancy and route diversity, Columbus Networks also maintains another major landing station in North Miami Beach, about 40 miles south of Boca Raton. "This is very appealing to other regional and international telecommunications carriers that require our services," Scott added. "The Colombia to Florida express route, dubbed CFX-1, represents one of the most important recent

telecommunications projects for stimulating economic expansion, broadband growth, and improved infrastructure reliability throughout the Caribbean and Latin America Region.”

Once CFX-1 is activated this summer, telecommunications traffic can move from Florida to Colombia and back in about 24 milliseconds, faster than a blink of an eye, say Columbus Networks representatives. A round-trip transmission from Florida to Jamaica can be completed within 15 milliseconds.

The new Boca Raton landing station is constructed to withstand sustained Category 5 hurricane-level storms with winds of more than 160 miles an hour. Exterior walls are constructed with 12-inch concrete blocks with three-quarter-inch reinforced steel bars in every cell and filled with high-strength concrete.

The building is equipped with battery backup systems along with dual 500-kilowatts power generators; high-performance redundant air conditioners; the latest fire prevention, detection, and suppression systems; video surveillance; and state-of-the-art security systems, says the company.

BUSINESS

Cobian's Triton Telecom bridges the Caribbean

Cobian International Group Inc. introduced Triton Telecom Inc., their undersea “Communiscope” cable company, the first to directly connect Florida and Puerto Rico. Triton Telecom is a wholly owned subsidiary of Cobian International Group Inc., headquartered in Orlando Florida.

Triton Telecom is introducing the future-proof submarine cable, Seahorse-1, which will be the first high-speed broadband service linking the United States and Puerto Rico without hops. With their experience in the telecom industry and advanced knowledge of fiber optics, Cobian is paving the path for a newer, faster, and highly

efficient way of communicating across the Caribbean. The Seahorse-1 cable system, along with its state-of-the-art design, will allow for increased traffic volume and enhanced quality.

Julio Vera, general manager of Triton, stated, “The additional capacity between these two regions will provide restoration capacity between destination points and will encourage and promote competitive pricing that will provide cost-effective, innovative technology serving the public interest.” Seahorse-1 is slated to begin cable installation during the fourth quarter of 2008, with completion scheduled for late Spring 2009.

Cobian ETC, sister company to Triton Telecom, creates turnkey solutions across all technologies and is now working with the Caribbean's largest service providers, building a strong presence in the Caribbean, Africa, Dubai, and Canada.

“All Cobian companies pride themselves on being green-based, and creating optimum, earth-saving solutions and materials for an invasion-free impact on the environment. Following our green initiative, the Seahorse-1 submarine installation will be the first to utilize a renewable energy power plant,” stated Joanne Negron, CEO.

For more information, visit www.cobiangroup.com

CTC receives Frame Agreement from StatoilHydro

CTC Marine Projects Limited, a division of the Trico group, was recently awarded a Frame Agreement by StatoilHydro ASA for the provision of trenching services.

The Frame Agreement is for a three-year period, with options to extend for two x two years, and covers offshore Norway. StatoilHydro will have access to CTC's extensive fleet of trenching assets, including the Volantis newbuild vessel incorporating the world's most powerful jetting trencher, the 2.1MW UT-1 “Ultra Trencher.” The UT-1 offers the greatest all-

weather launch and operating capability of any trenching asset.

CTC's managing director, Tony Inglis commented, "This agreement underlines CTC's position as the global leader in trenching. We are delighted that we will be working closely with StatoilHydro."

CTC appoints manager for Australia

CTC Marine Projects, a division of the Trico group, announced that it has appointed Marcus Hemsted as technical sales manager for Australia and New Zealand, operating from the company's newly opened Perth office. Marcus has extensive experience of the subsea and telecoms industries, having worked in project engineering and equipment design roles for a number of major contractors and operators. In his new role, Marcus will be responsible for developing CTC's trenching business in Australia and New Zealand and will work as part of the company's Asia Pacific team.

Tony Inglis, CTC's managing director, commented, "This is an important appointment which will support CTC's clients and further develop our markets in Australia and New Zealand. We are very pleased to welcome Marcus to the team."

Marine sector and environmental groups unite to launch Joint Statement on Draft Marine Bill

The Seabed User and Developer Group (SUDG) and Wildlife and Countryside Link (Link) came together in July to launch a joint statement on areas of agreement on the draft Marine Bill. The statement is a prime example of industry and environmental groups working together to ensure the sustainable development of the marine environment.

Jonathan Shaw, Marine and Fisheries Minister, welcomed the statement. He said, "Our seas are important. We use the seas for many resources on which jobs and livelihoods depend. Damage to marine life, habitats and ecosystems

has serious knock-on effects for all of us, so protecting our marine environment is a high priority.

"This joint statement between industry and environmentalists is a great example of how we can all work together to get the Marine Bill right and ensure clean, healthy, safe, productive and biologically diverse oceans and seas for future generations."

Peter Barham, chairman of the SUDG, said, "SUDG's commitment to working with others is evident in the joint statement which serves as a good example of the benefits of co-operation between marine industries and environmental NGOs.

It sets out the importance of joined-up thinking and an integrated approach to planning, managing and protecting our seas."

Lisa Chilton of The Wildlife Trusts, speaking on behalf of Link, commented, "In launching this joint statement with the SUDG, we are highlighting the significant areas of agreement between the environmental NGOs and the marine industries in relation to the draft Marine Bill. We are delighted that we can stand together with the SUDG in support of Marine Conservation Zones, marine planning and other key elements of the Bill that are essential for sustainable management of UK seas."

The SUDG will also publish its new sustainability brochure, produced by industries sharing a common interest in sustainable development of the UK's marine environment. It offers their perspectives on the draft Marine Bill and sustainable development of the UK's marine environment.

Commenting on the SUDG's brochure, Peter Barham added, "This brochure highlights how a Marine Bill that provides better regulation and marine management that benefits both business and the environment will help ensure the sustainable development of our seas.

We are both proud and pleased to have set out our aims and objectives in the SUDG brochure."

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