

Project Title:

Contractual Universal Service Initiative – broadband Internet access infrastructure development in St. John’s Parish, Tobago



Reporting Period: 1st April 2023 – 31st May 2023

Project Description:

The project aims to deploy telecommunications access infrastructure to facilitate the provision of broadband Internet access service via a fibre-to-the-home network in the St. John’s Parish, Tobago. The communities included are Parlatuvier, Bloody Bay and L’Anse Fourmi. Upon completion, residents will be able to subscribe to affordable broadband Internet access service commonly available in well-served areas.

Contracted Internet Service Provider:

Columbus Communications Trinidad Limited (CCTL), trading as FLOW

Expected Completion: ~~31st May 2023~~ **30th August 2023**

Key Highlights

- **Fibre construction for the entire route was completed**
This included the planting of new poles and framing of existing poles to secure 45km of fibre from Scarborough to St John’s Parish and throughout. The route comprised both the backbone fibre (routed from Scarborough up until Parlatuvier) and the distribution fibre (routed through Parlatuvier, Bloody Bay and L’Anse Fourmi).
- **All supporting work was completed**
This included site surveys, TTEC approvals for poles, subcontractor engagement, ordering of new equipment and shipment of available equipment to Tobago.

Risks and Issues

Risk	Impact/Likelihood	Mitigation
Logistics delays: Delivery of batteries and rectifiers for cabinet readiness were pending. [Closed risk]	Risk was accepted and initial timeline was re-baselined. All equipment arrived by 8th May.	CCTL has shipped and received all the pending necessary equipment by air.
Delay in THA approval for plinth location: All fibre construction work is completed, pending the approval of the concrete plinth location. This location will be used to house the fibre cabinet. [Active risk]	THA has indicated that the initial proposed location is not suitable as more space away from the roadway is preferred. THA also indicated that several alternative locations proposed by CCTL were not under their jurisdiction as they were privately owned land.	CCTL is investigating possible agreements with private landowners.

PROJECT HEALTH:

Scope	On track; Additional benefits possible if CCTL leverages infrastructure to deploy additional services(e.g. voice, tv)
Schedule	Delayed; Completion delayed from 31 st May 2023 to 30 th August 2023 due to the relocation of the concrete plinth required to house the fibre cabinet.
Cost	On track; Expected spend of \$870,291

Timeline

Major Milestones	Planned Completion	Revised Completion	Status
Contract signing	15-Aug-22	-	Completed
TTEC approval for poles	05-Oct-22	-	Completed
BoM generation, ordering of equipment	02-Feb-23	-	Completed
Delivery of all equipment	30-Mar-23	08-May-23	Completed
Input Fibre Build	31-Jan-23	24-Feb-23	Completed
Distribution Fibre Build	17-Feb-23	03-Mar-23	Completed
Cabinet and power installation and commissioning	30-Mar-23	28-July-23	Delayed, pending the approval of the new concrete plinth location.
Network testing	08-May-23	12-August-23	-
Go Live	31-May-23	30-August-23	-