

Project Title:

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



Reporting Period: 1st August 2023 – 30th September 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: ~~6th October 2023~~ **1st December 2023**

Key Highlights

- **Expected completion date further shifted from 6th October 2023 to 1st December 2023 due to delays arising from legal issues in finalizing an approved concrete plinth location.**
- **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. [Reopened 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. [Update:31/05/23] Additional fibre construction work will be needed to facilitate a new cabinet location. Pending a new plinth location is finalized by 14 th July, the new expected project completion is 30th August. [Update:31/07/23] After exploring several options with private landowners and reengaging with THA, CCTL has received THA approval for the placement of the plinth near the original proposed location. The new expected project completion is 6th October. [Update: 30/09/23] Based on new survey information received, the THA approved location does not have suitable space to accommodate the plinth and equipment fully. The new expected project completion is 1st December.	CCTL has identified a suitable location to accommodate plinth and equipment fully and has engaged the private landowner.

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 1 st December 2023 due to legal issues arising from the location of the concrete plinth required to house the fibre cabinet.
Cost	On track; Expected spend of \$870,291

Next Steps

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	6-Sep-23 15-Nov-23	Delayed due to legal issues arising from the location and approval of the concrete plinth placement.
Network testing	08-May-23	20-Sep-23 29-Nov-23	-
Go Live	31-May-23	06-Oct-23 1-Dec-23	-