

## Project Title:

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



**Reporting Period:** 1<sup>st</sup> December 2023 – 31<sup>st</sup> January 2024

## 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:** ~~29<sup>th</sup> February 2024~~ 29<sup>th</sup> March 2024

## Key Highlights

- **Expected completion date further shifted from 29<sup>th</sup> February 2024 to 29<sup>th</sup> March 2024 due to delays arising need to secure a private lease agreement for the 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
<b>Delay in THA approval for plinth location:</b> All fibre construction work is completed, pending the approval of the concrete plinth location. This location will be used to house the fibre cabinet. <b>[Reopened risk]</b>	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: 30/11/23] Further delays resulted from having to conduct detailed independent land surveys to ascertain boundaries for placing the equipment and verifying ownership. This was prerequisite to entering into a lease agreement with the landowner. <b>The new expected project completion is 29<sup>th</sup> February 2024.</b>  [Update: 31/01/24] All prerequisite work completed to finalize the lease agreement. Draft contract has been prepared for execution. Pending the execution of this lease agreement, <b>the expected project completion is 29<sup>th</sup> March 2024.</b>	CCTL has identified a suitable location to accommodate plinth and equipment fully and has engaged the private landowner. <b>Negotiations to finalize a lease agreement is at an advanced stage, contract is drafted and under final review.</b>

## Next Steps

- Plinth location to be finalized
- Cabinet to be installed. Fibre splicing, termination and testing to be done

## PROJECT HEALTH:

Scope	<b>On track;</b> Additional benefits possible if CCTL leverages infrastructure to deploy additional services(e.g. voice, tv)
Schedule	<b>Delayed;</b> Overall completion delayed from 31 <sup>st</sup> May 2023 to 29 <sup>th</sup> March 2024 due to need secure a private lease agreement for the location of the concrete plinth required to house the fibre cabinet.
Cost	<b>On track;</b> Expected spend of \$870,291

# Timeline

Major Milestones	Planned Completion	Revised Completion	Status
<b>Contract signing</b>	15-Aug-22	-	Completed
<b>TTEC approval for poles</b>	05-Oct-22	-	Completed
<b>BoM generation, ordering of equipment</b>	02-Feb-23	-	Completed
<b>Delivery of all equipment</b>	30-Mar-23	08-May-23	Completed
<b>Input Fibre Build</b>	31-Jan-23	24-Feb-23	Completed
<b>Distribution Fibre Build</b>	17-Feb-23	03-Mar-23	Completed
<b>Cabinet and power installation and commissioning</b>	30-Mar-23	<del>6-Sep-23</del> <del>02-Feb-24</del> 8-Mar-24	Delayed due to issues arising from the location and approval of the concrete plinth placement.
<b>Network testing</b>	08-May-23	<del>29-Nov-23</del> <del>16-Feb-24</del> 15-Mar-24	-
<b>Go Live</b>	31-May-23	<del>1-Dec-23</del> <del>29-Feb-24</del> 29-Mar-24	-