

Project Title:

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



Reporting Period: 1st February 2024 – 31st March 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: ~~29th March 2024~~ 31st May 2024

Key Highlights

- **Expected completion date further shifted from 29th March 2024 to 31st May 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
<p>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. [Closed]</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>[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. The new expected project completion is 29th February 2024.</p> <p>[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, the expected project completion is 29th March 2024.</p> <p>[Update: 31/03/24] The lease agreement has been executed to allow housing of the cabinet. Equipment installation has begun, the expected project completion is 31st May 2024.</p>	<p>CCTL identified a suitable location to accommodate the plinth and equipment fully. A lease agreement was signed with the private landowner.</p>

Next Steps

- Cabinet to be commissioned. Connection of TTEC power, fibre splicing, termination and testing to be done

PROJECT HEALTH:

Scope	On track; Additional benefits possible if CCTL leverages infrastructure to deploy additional services(e.g. voice, tv)
Schedule	Delayed; Overall completion delayed from 31 st May 2023 to 31 st May 2024 due to need secure a private lease agreement for the location of the concrete plinth required to house the fibre cabinet.
Cost	Variation approved; Overall spend increased from \$870,291 to \$996,291 due to costs associated with use of private land.

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	02-Feb-24 8-Mar-24 22-Apr-24	Delayed due to issues arising from the location and approval of the concrete plinth placement.
Network testing	08-May-23	16-Feb-24 15-Mar-24 06-May-24	-
Go Live	31-May-23	29-Feb-24 29-Mar-24 31-May-24	-