

Intelligent bus, video surveillance project launched in SVG



The Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines (SVG) and Taiwan, on Friday, January 25, 2019 signed an agreement for a US\$2.4 million Intelligent Bus Management and Monitoring System Project.

The Intelligent Bus Information System is expected to give commuters more control over the routes and schedules, and help them to know how long before a bus arrives.

The other component of the project, the Intelligent Video Surveillance System, aims to ensure a safe environment for both residents and visitors.

With the video captured by the system, police officers may efficiently investigate crime and preserve evidence, a facility which is expected to deter criminals and significantly reduce the crime rate.

Taiwan ambassador to SVG, Calvin Ho signed on behalf of Taipei, while SVG's Minister of Finance, Economic Planning, Sustainable Development and Information

Technology, Camillo Gonsalves, signed on his government's behalf, at the ceremony in Kingstown.

He said that the project will bring reliability and predictability to the bus service and provide the police and the Ministry of Transport and Works with information about usage patterns.

The e-bus project, in its most basic sense, is placing a small transmitter on the bus that would provide information on where the buses are, where they are going, and where they are coming from.

Intelligent bus stops will be fitted with CCTV camera and, in some cases, free wifi, and will provide persons with information about approaching buses and where those buses are going.

Source: [i Witness News](#)



Facts about IPv6

The Internet operates by moving data between networks. To communicate, each device connected to the Internet must be identified by an Internet Protocol (IP) address. We've been using IP version 4 (IPv4) and its 4.3 billion IP addresses since the inception of the Internet, but IPv4 was initially designed to support experimental research and government networks — not the global, public Internet we know today.

Internet Protocol version 6 (IPv6) is the next generation of the IP standard. While IPv4 and IPv6 will co-exist for some time,

IPv6 is intended to supplement and eventually replace IPv4.

For us to move forward and continue adding new devices and services to the Internet, we must deploy IPv6. It was designed with the needs of a global commercial Internet in mind, and deploying it is the only way we can continue forward with an open and innovative Internet.

IPv6 provides more than 340 trillion, trillion, trillion IP addresses, allows a huge range of devices to connect directly with one another, and helps ensure the Internet can continue its current growth rate indefinitely.

Dominican Government signs Multi-Million Dollar contract with Digicel



Dominica has signed an EC\$200 million (One EC dollar=US\$0.37 cents) agreement with the Irish-based telecommunication company, Digicel, which it says is intended to meet the

growing telecommunication and information communication and technology (ICT) needs of the island.

The 15-year agreement ends a 50 year monopoly that was previously enjoyed by the British-owned Cable and Wireless and Deputy Prime Minister Reginald Austrie described the occasion as “very historic”.

“This is a clear indication that the government decision-making process is in keeping with the principles of transparency and non-discriminatory with an award being made on merit...and established protocol”.

Austrie said that five corporate entities had submitted bids and that the Roosevelt Skerrit administration is “satisfied that Digicel will provide the government with a range of quality services...and deliver a robust, resilient high capacity and smart network to meet the growing telecommunication and ICT needs within the public

service and to the Dominican public”.

He said the network has been designed in keeping with the government’s thrust to make the island the first climate resilient country in the world.

Digicel chief executive officer, Nikima Royer Jno Baptiste said the agreement signals the island’s ICT transformation.

She said all 272 government sites will be connected to a new high speed resilient fibre optic backed up throw two on island and one off island data centre “with substantial training and knowledge transfer to the government”.

She said as part of the contract, the government will be initially introducing “several cutting edge ICT initiatives... including CCTV monitoring including facial and licence plate recognition contributing significantly to the safety of all Dominicans and visitors...”

Telecommunications and technology Minister, Kelder Darroux, said the telecommunications market has revolutionised operations worldwide and has taken on a much different structure when the government began the process of putting all integrating all of its offices under one umbrella in 2008.

Darroux said the signing of the contract is “especially meaningful” to the government which has identified ICT “as a critical facilitator for socio-economic development as well as a national priority area.

Source: [Tv6TnT](#) via [ICT Pulse](#)

CDB to release study on Regional Investments in Digital Technology

The Barbados-based Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) says it plans to release later this year, a study, which is intended to build a foundation for subsequent regional investments in digital technology, designed to support productivity, innovation and better decision-making at the policy level.

The announcement by the region’s premier financial institution, coincides with its statement that it has signed an agreement with the Irish-based telecommunications company, Digicel, aimed at providing advancing digital transformation at the regional financial institution.

The CDB did not provide much details on the study it intends to release later this year, but its Director, Finance and Information Technology Solutions, Carlyle Assue, said last year, the bank strengthened its focus on digital transformation to be able to deliver greater value to its members and partners.

“This partnership with Digicel helps us to be more efficient, responsive and collaborative in supporting economic and social development throughout the region,” said Assue.

Digicel, a mobile phone network provider operating in 33 markets across the Caribbean, Central America, and Oceania regions, said that its ICT managed services solutions are the perfect fit for CDB’s Digital Transformation initiative.

“Taking a partnership approach, the result is a first of its kind solution which not only provides unparalleled value, but empowers CDB and its employees by enabling increased productivity and collaboration irrespective of a user’s geographic location.

A CDB statement on Friday, January 25 said that under the partnership, it will benefit from a more cost-effective way of doing business regional and globally; better access to analytics and other technology services anytime, anywhere; faster and more reliable internet; and improved staff collaboration through mobile applications.

[Tv6TnT](#) via [ICT Pulse](#)



Castries mayor “welcomes digital age” with free public WiFi within the city

Mayor of Castries, His Worship Peterson D. Francis has welcomed the digital age with free public Wi-Fi within Castries.

The initiative, part of the Government Island Wide Network (GINET) Wi-Fi, was launched on Wednesday December 19, 2018 at Constitution Park and is part of a US\$4 million investment within the City of Castries.

Speaking at the project launch, Mayor Francis said that the development embraces the concept of smart cities because it delivers a new way of life through innovative technologies which would assist in reducing the digital divide, fostering improved business transactions and meeting increased expectations of residents, visitors and businesses.

Mayor Francis also applauded the efforts of the Government and the people of the Republic of China (Taiwan).

“I strongly believe that St. Lucia can be the Telecommunication Hub in the Caribbean with many

more investments in that sector. GINET WIFI will forge a path and is the start to such development. But to do this, we unquestionably need a combined effort across Industry and Government. Let us introduce the latest in technology to further empower our people. Let us collaborate in becoming the choice for ICT related investments. A few more Customer Service Call Centers can be added to that list. Soon, our smart parking through installation of parking terminals will be launched and we intend on also initiating charging stations for mobile devices”, stated Francis.

He added, “I hope that the new GINET WIFI service within Castries will not only revolutionize the way St. Lucians communicate and interact with each other, but most importantly be a key building block in the island’s digital empowerment. For me, the approach should be unified to a technological rollout that will profit yet create a digitally empowered nation, exceeding social and economic obstacles. And therefore, the millennial youth, students, businessman, residents and visitors can enjoy the free Wi-Fi at our facilities. Now visitors can research local attractions, look up local events, load maps and post scenic photos. Undoubtedly, these services will also enhance the tourism product. I would like to thank our technological partners and the Project Office for their hard work. I am also grateful to the Government of the Republic of China(Taiwan) for initiating, financing and implementing this initiative”.

Castries benefits most from the GINET Project with ten (10) locations and access points.

The free GINET WI-Fi service can be accessed at Government Buildings (Waterfront), Serenity Park, Derek Walcott Square, Central Market, Craft Market, Constitution Park, La Place Carenage, Pointe Seraphine, Cultural Centre and the National ICT Centre/Central Library.

Source: [St. Lucia News Online](#)

Antigua & Barbuda To Pump Millions Into State Internet Provider



The Antigua and Barbuda Government has announced that the state-owned Antigua Public Utilities Authority (APUA) will invest millions of dollars in becoming much more competitive in the telecommunication sector.

said APUA could spend an estimated EC\$80 million on its own sub-sea cable. Browne was quoted as saying that adding high-speed broadband is essential to providing wide enough bandwidth, to facilitate all the modern industries that now operate globally on the Internet.

Browne said that in 2019, “APUA will invest \$80 million, to acquire its own sub-sea cable and to democratise access to the Internet through the provision of more affordable, reliable and faster internet service to residents,” dismissing the concerns of the existing foreign owned telecom providers, according to CMC News.

Source: [St. Lucia Times](#)

According to CMC News, Prime Minister Gaston Browne

New ITU standards bring broadband to places as remote as Mount Everest



New ITU standards aim to bring high-speed broadband services to rural communities with lightweight, terabit-capable optical cable that can be deployed on the ground's surface with minimal expense and environmental impact.

The standards are giving developing countries the confidence to consider the rollout of optical networks in some of the world's most challenging conditions.

Nepal, for example, has highlighted its intention to use ITU-standardized lightweight optical cable to connect places as remote as Mount Everest Base Camp and Annapurna Trekking Trail.

Why lightweight optical cable?

Satellite communications are characterized by high latency, struggling to support the interactive services associated with broadband. Radiocommunications can provide 'last-mile' connectivity. But in the broadband era, optical infrastructure is indispensable – rural communities are often many, many kilometres away from core networks.

The Editor of the new standards, Haruo Okamura of Waseda University, offers a compelling example: "Optical cable is becoming an absolute must for telemedicine. Only optical cable provides capacity high enough and latency low enough for the live transmission of HD medical imagery to remote medical

professionals."

The installation of ultra-high speed optical networks, however, comes with a great deal of cost and complexity.

"Today the costs of optical cable installation are typically 70 to 80 per cent of the entire CAPEX of the network," says Okamura. "The designs of conventional optical cables are specific to their installation environment – whether duct, directly buried, lashed aerial or submerged – with installation methods relying on specialized machinery and skilled labour."

This challenge is made even greater by the low densities of remote rural communities, where fibre rollouts demand a disproportionate level of initial capital investment relative to the potential return on such investment.

New ITU standards aim to change that equation by providing a low-cost 'do-it-yourself' solution able to be deployed in even the world's most remote areas.

High-tech optical cable with low-tech installation

"In future we hope to see this lightweight optical cable for sale on websites like Alibaba and Amazon," says Okamura.

The new standards put advanced optical technology in the hands of rural communities, leveraging the ingenuity of local communities to overcome the prohibitive costs of traditional optical cable deployment in areas with a challenging installation environment.

"The unique feature of this solution is its focus on ease of deployment," says Okamura. "Cost-effective, practical implementation is the top priority."

Local communities will have the ability to secure these on-surface lines, using everyday tools to partially bury the lines, settle them on ground underwater, suspend them aerially, or relocate the lines as necessary.

"This is the world's first standardized solution expressly designed to narrow the digital divide," says Okamura. "It will assist us in ensuring that communications infrastructure fulfills its great potential to support the achievement of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals."

Source: [ITU](#)



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