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SEYCHELLES COMPLETES BROADBAND UPGRADE

New Fibre To The Curb and undersea cable networks

Telecoms in the Seychelles has taken a 'momentous step forward' with the completion of a nationwide Fibre To The Curb (FTTC) network by Cable & Wireless Seychelles, which will be supported by the country's first subsea cable network.

Cable & Wireless Seychelles, a Cable & Wireless Communications (CWC) company, has completed the roll out of the FTTC network, which has taken two years to build.

The FTTC network has effectively brought Cable & Wireless Seychelles' core network closer to its customers, increasing the number of households with access to broadband services and creating the opportunity to deliver faster broadband speeds.

The FTTC network will be fed by the Seychelles East Africa System (SEAS) subsea cable network, which has now entered commercial service. The 2,000 km SEAS cable links Beau Vallon, a bay on the main island of Mahé, with Dar Es Salaam in Tanzania.

The SEAS system has substantially increased the capacity for data traffic to and from the islands, which will reduce the cost of providing broadband and other internet-based services. The Seychelles was previously reliant on satellite connections.

These new networks are expected to improve the take-up of broadband in the Seychelles. Internet penetration is currently estimated to be at around 30% of households and businesses.

Charles Hammond, Chief Executive of Cable & Wireless Seychelles, commented:

"Our country-wide fibre broadband network, supported by the new SEAS cable, represents a momentous step forward for telecoms in the Seychelles. It will support the rapid growth in demand for fixed and mobile broadband usage across the islands as well as providing better telecom connections for businesses both locally and internationally."

The Seychelles is an archipelago of 115 islands in the Indian Ocean. Cable & Wireless Seychelles is the market leader in the provision of mobile, fixed line and broadband services.

What is Fibre To The Curb?

One of the factors affecting the speed of a customer's broadband connection is the distance of their property from their telecom provider's core network.

A fibre to the curb network uses fibre optic cables to bring a telecoms operator's core network closer to customers by linking it to telecoms equipment stored in a box or pole near their home or business.

About Cable & Wireless Communications

Cable & Wireless Communications is a global full-service communications business. We operate leading communications businesses through four regional units – the Caribbean, Panama, Macau and Monaco & Islands. Our services include mobile, broadband and domestic and international fixed line services in most of our markets as well as pay TV, data centre and hosting, carrier and managed service /social telecom (telecom enabled public services) solutions. Our operations are focused on providing our customers – consumers, businesses, governments – with world-class service. Serving the communities where we operate is at the heart of our approach, and we are committed to behaving in an ethical and socially responsible manner. For more information visit www.cwc.com.

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