Project Proposal Summary Sheet

Project Title: Broadband Infrastructure Development - a) New Submarine Cable System

Source of Proposal: Telecommunications Authority of Trinidad and Tobago (TATT)
Contact*:* Cris Seecheran – TATT – cseecheran@tatt.org.tt

Brief Description

The Telecommunications Authority of Trinidad and Tobago has developed a proposed national Broadband Plan with the intention of achieving national broadband access targets in the short, medium and long term for Trinidad and Tobago. The proposed national targets to be achieved include: by 2015: minimum of 5 Mbps to all citizens; by 2017: minimum of 10 Mbps to all citizens; and by 2020: minimum of 100 Mbps to all citizens. In the view of insufficient broadband network and capacity needed to meet the above targets, intervention may be required by the Authority to assist the sector in realizing these goals. As such, the Authority has identified areas within the national infrastructure that requires improvements: - Anew Submarine Cable System:

Although there may be sufficient installed off-island capacity in the near and medium term to support the proposed broadband access target, there would be a need to install addition capacity, via a new cable system, to manage the long term access target (i.e. minimum of 100 Mbps to the average consumer). It is also recognized that the time required for planning and implementing a new cable system, from the US (i.e. Miami) to Trinidad and Tobago, could take up to 5 years. Therefore, this initiative should commence in the medium term, for use in the long term. The conceptual diagrams below illustrate an option for the design and implementation of a new submarine cable system route into Trinidad and Tobago. Although there may be sufficient installed off-island capacity in the near and medium term to support the proposed broadband access target, there would be a need to install addition capacity, via a new cable system, to manage the long term access target (i.e. minimum of 100 Mbps to the average consumer). It is also recognized that the time required for planning and implementing a new cable system, from the US (i.e. Miami) to Trinidad and Tobago, could take up to 5 years. Therefore, this initiative should commence in the medium term, for use in the long term. The conceptual diagrams below illustrate an option for the design and implementation of a new submarine cable system route into Trinidad and Tobago.

The intention, after the establishment of this new cable system, is that all operating costs shall be covered by revenues collected by leasing capacity from the new cable system. The operating model should seek to attract the necessary funding to build out the system, but should be set up in a commercial arrangement that would not distort the competitive market. In essence, capacity should

only be provided to domestic service providers and not directly to consumers. This operating model would remove the potential for anti-competitive behavior amongst market players. The project is a conceptual plan proposed by the Authority and may not be necessarily formalized in the form proposed, but it is likely that certain elements of the plan will be implemented.

Beneficiary Country

Trinidad and Tobago

Project Objective(s)

To install additional capacity via the development of a new submarine cable system to meet broadband targets.

Expected Results

Installation of a new submarine cable system: Additional capacity to provide broadband speeds of 100Mbps to all citizens of Trinidad and Tobago.

Estimated Start Date

January 2015

Estimated Duration

60 months

Estimated Budget

USD 138,000,000

Main Activities

- Proper and accurate planning to determine the appropriate cable route and landing points;
- An environment impact assessment;
- Approval from the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to land and terminate with a domestic carrier in the USA.