



Title: "Broadband Access for Central American Universities"

Brief Description

The Latin American Cooperation of Research and Education Networks of Latin America (CLARA), jointly with the European Commission (EuropeAid) has been working since 2002 in the development of a Latin American Research and Education Network to improve broadband access to Advanced Research and Education Networks as well as Broadband Commodity Internet Access for all Latin American Universities and the connection of these to European and worldwide Advanced Networks. This effort has allowed to create a "Backbone Telecommunications Network" connecting the capital cities of most Latin American countries, with "dark" optical fiber connections that permit the deployment of broadband networks with bandwidth upgradeable at will.

In Central America, a recent development has been the deployment of this type of infrastructure between Panama-Costa Rica-Nicaragua and San Salvador on one side and Guatemala-Mexico on the other side. The optical fiber infrastructure will permit in this way to deploy broadband interconnections between the countries involved and from them to rest of Latin America and the World.

Unfortunately, some "holes" are present in this infrastructure: the San Salvador Managua link and the extension from the fiber path crossing Honduras, to Tegucigalpa. This project proposes to complete this fiber optic network in order to create the first Mesoamerican integration of educational and research institutions. Moreover, since the original project included only the capital cities, this project takes advantage of the terrestrial trajectory of the network to include "add and drop" facilities that will allow to integrate universities and educational institutions along the path and hence contribute to the inclusion of "off capital" institutions so far not included in the network.

Objectives

1. To facilitate the access of Central American research and education institutions to the Advanced Internet and also the Commodity Internet by providing a high speed upgradeable network interconnecting them among themselves and with Mexico.
2. To foster the development of joint initiatives between Mesoamerican institutions in order to contribute to tackle the solution of common problems such as early warning of disasters or the propagation of contagious diseases.

Expected Results

1. A fiber optic network connecting the Capital Cities of all Mesoamerican Countries.
2. An including network allowing to include education and research institutions "off capital" in the Central American Countries.
3. A set of research communities working together in the solution of key Mesoamerican issues.

Budget

Optical fibre deployment from Nacaome to Tegucigalpa	USD 650.000
Optical fibre deployment from San Salvador to Guatemala City	USD 430.000
Equipment for add/drop facilities in 15 cities in Central America.	USD 890.000
Foster the development of 3 research and education communities	USD 360.000
Total of the Project for 2 years	USD 2.330.000