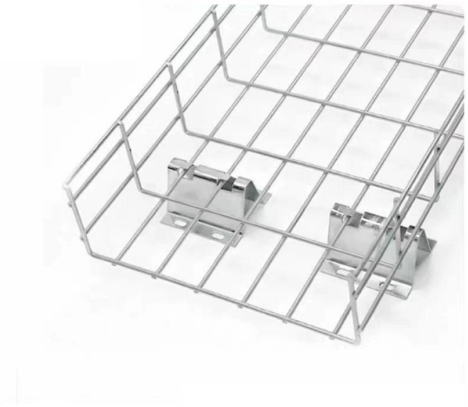
Construction process of optical cable in Haiti



Overview

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Key Takeaways

Haiti is constructing a 200 km undersea fiber-optic cable to connect the country to the global internet via the Bahamas, significantly improving broadband and mobile connectivity.

Project Overview

The Haiti Optical Cable project is a US$16 million initiative led by Digicel Group in collaboration with Columbus Networks and Alcatel-Lucent. The cable spans approximately 200 kilometers and is designed to link Haiti to the international internet backbone through the Bahamas, providing a high-capacity, secure, and reliable connection. This project is part of Haiti's broader effort to modernize its telecommunications infrastructure, which was severely damaged by the 2010 earthquake.

Stakeholders and Partnerships

Digicel Group: The primary funder and project leader, also the largest private investor in Haiti's telecom sector, with over US$600 million invested to date. Columbus Networks: Provides the undersea fiber-optic network infrastructure and integrated telecom solutions across the Americas and Caribbean.

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Alcatel-

Lucent: Supplies the technology and expertise for deploying high-capacity fiber-optic systems.

TELECO and BT

C: Haitian and Bahamian telecom operators collaborating to ensure local integration and service delivery.

Technical Details

The undersea cable is a fiber-optic system capable of carrying significantly more data than traditional copper lines, with lower latency and energy requirements. It will connect Haiti to 21 Caribbean countries and the United States, integrating with the main internet backbone in South Florida. The project also leverages existing infrastructure from the FibraLink system, which previously connected Jamaica to the US, ensuring seamless regional connectivity.

Benefits and Impact

Improved Internet Access: High-speed broadband for both fixed and mobile networks, reducing congestion and improving reliability. Lower Costs: Fiber optics require less energy and maintenance, potentially lowering service costs for consumers. Enhanced Communication: Eliminates echo and delays in phone calls, providing a direct and high-quality connection.

Economic Development: Supports business, public sector, and social activities by providing robust digital infrastructure. Disaster Resilience: Strengthens Haiti's communications network against future disruptions, addressing vulnerabilities exposed by the 2010 earthquake.

Timeline and Status

Construction is ongoing, with the cable expected to be operational once fully deployed and tested. The project represents a major step forward in Haiti's digital transformation, enabling the country to participate more fully in regional and global digital economies. This undersea fiber-optic initiative marks a significant milestone in Haiti's telecommunications modernization, promising faster, more reliable, and cost-effective connectivity for millions of Haitians.

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Article Content

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This Recommendation also describes how to mitigate the considerable risks and/or issues to which the optical fibre cable may be exposed when infrastructures are minimal during installation, maintenance

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