

Jamaica receives fiber optic cables

Article Overview

Jamaica is set to enhance its digital infrastructure with the TAM-1 undersea fiber optic cable, boosting bandwidth, reducing costs, and improving connectivity.

Jamaica has signed a letter of intent with Trans Americas Fiber System to connect the island to the TAM-1 subsea cable, which will significantly strengthen the country's digital infrastructure and resilience . The TAM-1 cable, already linking multiple countries in the Americas, will extend a branch to Jamaica, delivering up to 20 Tbps of international bandwidth. This expansion is expected to reduce international bandwidth costs for local operators by up to 99%, supporting the government's National Broadband Project .

Project Details

The project is estimated to cost between US\$45 million and US\$55 million, depending on the capacity the government acquires . Construction of the Jamaican branch is tentatively scheduled for the fourth quarter of 2026, with full operational status expected by the third quarter of 2027 . The cable lies approximately 220 km off the Jamaican coast, allowing for relatively quick installation .

Benefits for Jamaica

- o Enhanced Connectivity: The TAM-1 cable will provide faster, more reliable internet, reducing latency and improving access to international data centers .
- o Economic Growth: Lower connectivity costs are expected to attract new businesses, support tech startups, and stimulate investment in digital services .
- o Redundancy and Resilience: Jamaica currently relies on two other subsea links (CFX-1 and ALBA-1) and regional fiber connections. The TAM-1 branch will add redundancy, reducing the risk of outages .
- o Digital Inclusion: The project aligns with the government's National Broadband Initiative, aiming to expand high-speed internet access across the island, including underserved areas .

Historical Context

Jamaica's transition to fiber optics has been gradual. Early telecommunications relied on copper cables, which limited speed and capacity. Companies like Cable & Wireless (now FLOW) and Digicel pioneered fiber optic deployment, expanding high-speed internet across the island. The government has supported these efforts through public-private partnerships and regulatory initiatives, ensuring broader access to modern connectivity .

Outlook

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The TAM-1 cable is expected to be a game-changer for Jamaica's digital landscape, enabling faster internet, lower costs, and greater economic opportunities. This strategic investment reflects the country's commitment to modernizing its telecommunications infrastructure and fostering a digitally inclusive economy .

Laying of fibre optic cables along the North Coast Highway will be fast tracked Daryl Vaz, minister of science, energy and technology.

Currently, Cable and Wireless is the only telecommunications company that has access to fibre optic cable in

A subsea fibre optic cable for Jamaica is expected to be operational by the third quarter of next year. Yesterday, the

6Wresearch actively monitors the Jamaica Fibre Optic Cable Market and publishes its comprehensive annual report, highlighting

Jamaica Information Service - The Voice of Jamaica

The Government has signed a letter of intent with Trans Americas Fiber System for the Subsea Cable Project, which

Discover how fiber optic cables are transforming Jamaica's internet connectivity, delivering

The minister noted that in addition to the fibre network, the Government, through the National

The Government recently signed a letter of intent with Trans Americas Fiber System for the

The Minister added that, to date, nine municipal corporations are connected to the fibre backbone infrastructure. Mr.

In Jamaica, the transition to fiber optics was championed by a few pioneering companies:

A subsea fibre optic cable for Jamaica is expected to be operational by the third quarter of

Digicel has teamed up with networking giant Cisco and Sierra to build an underground fiber network in the Jamaican

Using state of the art equipment such as Fiber Optic Fusion Splice machines, Fiber Optic OTDR, Fiber Optic Power meter/light



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The island is already connected by multiple undersea fiber-optic cables to the global internet, and new cables are

Fiber optic cable is more than just a technological upgrade; it's a critical tool for ensuring

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