



Bedminster, New Jersey, January 5, 2005 – Press Release

### **Jamaica License Awarded to TCCN Consortium**

Trans-Caribbean Cable Company (TCCC) is pleased to confirm that its license proposal submitted on November 1, 2004 resulted in the issuance of a license by the Jamaican government on December 20, 2004. Today in Kingston, Mr. Crawford, the President of TCCC, made the following remarks at a press conference hosted by the Jamaican government:

“On behalf of AT&T Wireless (now Cingular), Digicel, Gotel, MCI, Oceanic Digital, Reliant, Sprint, Verizon, and the other 30-plus members of the TCCN consortium, I would like to thank Minister Paulwell and the OUR for awarding the license to us.

Using the newly issued license, the Trans-Caribbean Cable Network (TCCN) cable owner’s consortium will be able to move forward with its plans to construct a new undersea fiber optic cable to Jamaica. We believe that the new cable will greatly improve the quality of Jamaica’s telecommunications infrastructure, resulting in more reliable services at lower costs for all Jamaican consumers.

The TCCN Jamaica project is based upon an open investment model that we call the Virtual Consortium™ Model (VCM). Unlike private or ‘club’ cables, this model encourages the participation of all interested players and insures nondiscriminatory access to the network with our involvement as a carrier-neutral management entity. Ultimately, the network itself will be owned by the consortium of users and not by one private entity, in a similar way that multiple homeowners own their homes in a large real estate development. This open consortium model provides each participant with the ability to use, lease, or resell its portion of the network according to its own desires.

Here in Jamaica, nondiscriminatory access will be provided in partnership with JNAP. The project will include a terrestrial fiber network connection to the JNAP collocation facility in New Kingston and will thereby guarantee the ability for any Jamaican service provider to satisfy their bandwidth, collocation, and access needs without any interference from their competitors.

In closing, I would like to applaud the Minister and the OUR for their professional, efficient, and timely management of a very complex evaluation process which led to this license award.

Having personally worked on several different fiber projects in many different countries, I would like to note that it has been a very positive experience working with the Jamaican government and I look forward to continuing this relationship as we work together to bring this new fiber to Jamaica.

Thank you.”

TCCC is the management organization responsible for the creation of TCCN. The management team of TCCC has more than 100 years of combined experience in submarine cable planning, construction, operations and maintenance.

For more information, please visit [www.trans-caribbeancable.com](http://www.trans-caribbeancable.com).