



Bedminster, New Jersey, May 20, 2005 – Press Release

### **TCCN Consortium Announces New Configuration**

Trans-Caribbean Cable Company (TCCC) is pleased to announce that the TCCN consortium has identified a new network configuration for development. The new configuration has been named “Central Caribbean” as it cuts through the center of the Caribbean Sea on its way from Jamaica to Colombia.

TCCN had initially been exploring other means of satisfying its connectivity requirements in the region, but the consortium ultimately adopted the Central Caribbean project plan for a number of reasons, including its findings that the project’s overall capital, capacity expansion, and on-going O&M costs will be much less expensive than the other alternatives.

The TCCN Central Caribbean (“CC”) project plan includes landings in Colombia, Dominican Republic, Haiti, and Jamaica. Optional landings under consideration include Aruba, Curacao, Panama, and/or Venezuela. Although the U.S. remains the target destination for most of the traffic across the network, TCCN is still considering how best to route such traffic. The options under consideration include transiting through Puerto Rico and/or St. Croix, where several onward connection options to the U.S. already exist. Alternatively, TCCN may connect directly into one or more of the downtown Miami Network Access Points (NAPs).

TCCC is proposing to operate the landing facilities at Colombia, Haiti, Jamaica, and Miami as carrier-neutral facilities in order to provide all TCCN members with equal access, collocation, and other landing facility services. As a neutral operator, TCCC will allow the owners and third-party backhaul providers into such facilities in order to promote open competition that will result in further reduction of end-to-end costs for TCCN consortium owners.

“Bringing the project directly into a Miami NAP further improves the project’s value by eliminating a recurring backhaul cost of \$2MM per year or more at the project level”, notes Brian Crawford, President of TCCC. “In addition, we believe that introducing backhaul competition in locations such as Columbia will result in dramatic cost savings to the owners over the life of the project.”

The TCCN CC project will utilize a cost-effective collapsed-ring trunk and branch architecture which was employed by other consortium systems such as AMERICAS-II and MAYA-1. In the event of a TCCN CC failure, cable-on-cable restoration arrangements will be possible at every landing location except Haiti, where no other option exists yet. TCCC expects that the new project’s performance will be similar to that of MAYA-1 which has never experienced any failures due to external aggression.

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

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