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Membership in TCCN Consortium Growing

Trans-Caribbean Cable Company (TCCC) is pleased to announce that membership in the Trans-Caribbean Cable Network (TCCN) cable owner's consortium based upon the company's Virtual Consortium™ Model (VCM) has now reached 30 telecom companies. TCCC believes that still more companies are likely to join the consortium to realize the benefits of investing in the TCCN network on a cost basis.

"We are working with the carriers to establish a structure in which multiple projects can be created and managed under the same umbrella", said Brian Crawford, President of TCCC. "With multiple projects under one umbrella, the carriers will be able to achieve levels of flexibility that were previously not possible, including capacity transfers between projects and network integration for diverse, instantaneous service protection."

The TCCN consortium has agreed to divide TCCN into geographic sections with a long-term connectivity strategy covering most of the Caribbean region. The first step is to establish connectivity between Jamaica and Puerto Rico with interconnection points in Haiti and the Dominican Republic. By making use of the existing ANTILLAS-1 cable system between the Dominican Republic and Puerto Rico, the consortium will minimize its costs and reduce the project's time to market. "It typically takes about a year to obtain the required permissions to build a new cable into Puerto Rico", states Jeff Fleisher, the company's Director of Operations.

To provide connectivity between Puerto Rico, Miami, and other locations, the consortium will consider both a combination of existing cable upgrades interconnected strategically with new segments or the purchase of ARCOS facilities. "There is no guarantee that a transaction involving ARCOS will happen," said Crawford, "so the consortium is developing an alternative plan that will allow interconnectivity between AMERICAS-II and MAYA-1 to provide improved diversity and to double the capacity on certain paths of these networks."

To complete its alternative plan, the TCCN consortium would only need to build two new cable segments to create two 'bridges' between AMERICAS-II and MAYA-1. "It looks like the demand in Jamaica will cost justify the first cable segment between Jamaica and the Dominican Republic", added Jeff Fleisher, "so the decision really comes down to the cost of the second new cable segment from Colombia to Aruba together with the upgrade costs [of the existing cables] versus the cost of ARCOS connectivity."

TCCC is the management organization responsible for planning, creating, operating, and maintaining TCCN. The carrier neutral company's business plan is similar to that of a real estate property developer. "Unlike the typical private cable developer that wants full ownership and control of the network assets, our model allows ownership and control to remain with the carriers", states Crawford. "We provide for more efficient, owner neutral implementation and management of the common assets, similar to the home owners association of a real estate development. Essentially, with common network management provided, the carriers should be able to focus more on customers, including service differentiation and revenue generation." The management team of TCCC has more than 100 years of combined experience in submarine cable planning, construction, operations and maintenance.

For more information, including the current list of consortium members, please visit the company's web site at www.trans-caribbeancable.com.