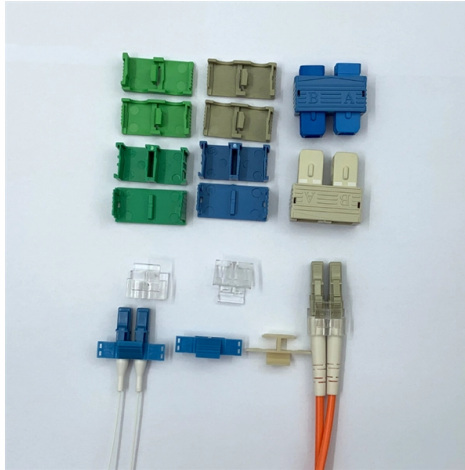


Does Jamaica ensure the safety of its fiber optic cables



Overview

FLOW undertakes post-earthquake cable repairs Telecommunications provider FLOW recently commissioned the CS Wave Sentinel vessel to repair two of its subse.

Key Takeaways

Jamaica actively implements infrastructure upgrades, redundancy systems, and legislative measures to enhance the safety and resilience of its fiber optic cables. Government Initiatives and Redundancy Measures

Jamaica's National Broadband Initiative has invested heavily in fiber optic networks, connecting schools and public institutions with over 1,100 kilometers of cable, while also developing a microwave infrastructure to provide network redundancy in case of fiber breaks during disasters . The government is also investing in sub-sea fiber optic cables to strengthen digital infrastructure, reduce connectivity costs, and ensure alternative routing for data traffic, which enhances resilience against single points of failure .

ISP Upgrades and Disaster Preparedness



Major Internet Service Providers (ISPs) like Flow Jamaica and Digicel are upgrading their networks to improve reliability. Flow is transitioning its copper-based network to 100% fiber, reducing dependence on power and mitigating outages caused by copper theft . Digicel is installing solar power packs and battery backups at a significant portion of its cell sites to maintain connectivity during storms and power outages . These measures collectively improve the resilience of Jamaica's internet infrastructure, making it one of the more robust networks in the Caribbean .

Legislative and Security Measures

The Jamaican government recognizes the vulnerability of telecommunications infrastructure to criminal activity, including theft of fiber optic cables, copper, and other critical equipment. Prime Minister Andrew Holness has indicated plans for legislation imposing harsher penalties for crimes targeting critical infrastructure, aiming to deter theft and deliberate damage . This complements ongoing efforts by ISPs to secure their equipment and maintain service continuity.

Regional and International Collaboration

Jamaica participates in regional initiatives to strengthen submarine cable resilience, addressing threats from natural disasters such as hurricanes, earthquakes, and submarine landslides. Organizations like the Caribbean Telecommunications Union (CTU) and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) provide guidance on best practices for cable route planning, redundancy, and disaster recovery . These collaborations help ensure that Jamaica's fiber optic networks remain robust and capable of supporting economic and social activities.

Conclusion

While fiber optic cables in Jamaica face risks from natural disasters and criminal activity, the country has implemented a combination of infrastructure upgrades, redundancy systems, legislative protections, and regional collaboration to enhance their safety and reliability. These measures collectively aim to maintain continuous connectivity for critical services, businesses, and educational institutions across the island.

Article Content

FLOW undertakes post-earthquake cable repairs

Telecommunications provider FLOW recently commissioned the CS Wave Sentinel vessel to repair two of its subsea

Significant Achievements on National Broadband Initiatives

The Minister noted that in addition to the fibre network, the Government, through the National Broadband Initiative, is

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The Government recently signed a letter of intent with Trans Americas Fiber System for the Sub-sea Cable Project,

Jamaica makes ground on national fibre-optic project in FY 2022-23

So, we are ensuring that we have a microwave infrastructure that works, especially during disasters, in the event of a

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FibraLink Jamaica Limited (FibraLink) is a recently incorporated Jamaican company established with the expressed purpose of

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Site superintendent and project manager will conduct site inspection to ensure that employees who handle, pull, install, splice,

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Minister of Finance and the Public Service, Hon. Fayval Williams, says the Government's investment in sub-sea fibre

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