

Stephen Scott
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Q. What has been the impact of OTTs deploying/backing their own submarine cables?

While we're witnessing a shift from the carrier-financed or consortium models of the past to part-ownership models by OTT and technology companies, many if not all these new subsea cables are being built and deployed by experienced subsea cable companies. These systems must be carefully designed, engineered and secured. So hyperscale players such as Google, Facebook and Microsoft that are investing in new cables still rely on experienced subsea cable manufacturers and operators. For example, Telxius, a subsidiary of Telefónica, will manage the construction and operation of the Marea subsea cable in which Facebook and Microsoft have ownership stakes.

Technologically, because OTT providers continue to invest in subsea cables to transport data-intensive services, we can anticipate that subsea spectral efficiency will further improve and that future undersea cables will provide increasingly higher capacity.

That being said, the tsunami of OTT content produced worldwide and the advent of the Internet of Things are pushing industry demand for more subsea cable builds and routes. This demand will include not only transoceanic submarine cable systems capable of delivering terabits of capacity across distances of more than 10,000 km. But also regional submarine cable systems that can serve underserved regions of the world, such as the Deep Blue Cable subsea fibre-optic system, which will provide connectivity across the Caribbean islands and to the Americas.

Q. What are your predictions for the Americas' submarine cable market in 10 years?

To look at the Caribbean market, which is Deep Blue Cable's focus, our pan-regional subsea cable system has more than 40 landings planned across the islands, mainland U.S., and South America. In the Caribbean, 12-year growth is predicted to reach approximately 50 times existing capacity demand. Bandwidth demand is strong, and high growth is forecasted due to increasing regional investment in fixed and mobile broadband infrastructure. Off-island capacity demand is also growing across the region at between 30 and 45 percent annually, which we anticipate will only increase in the coming years.

Compared to North American and European telecommunications markets, there remains significant growth potential across the Caribbean for higher penetration of fixed and mobile broadband services, particularly as a result of public-sector initiatives to promote broadband and Information and Communication Technology throughout the region. The direction of Caribbean network connectivity, in which Miami remains the de facto hub for Caribbean bandwidth demand, coupled with the close economic, cultural and linguistic ties among Caribbean countries and the United States, has created an urgent need for improved pan-regional bandwidth infrastructure.

These factors will undoubtedly give rise to new regional subsea cable systems and network expansions.

Q. Why did you choose to speak at Subsea Connect Americas?

The Americas is the world's fastest-growing regional submarine cable market, which makes Subsea Connect Americas the ideal platform to connect with the entire regional submarine cable community, share ideas, and participate in open dialogues with other industry leaders who have unique perspectives.

*Stephen Scott will be speaking at **Subsea Connect Americas 2017**. For more information and to register your passes, please [click here](#).*