

Global Crossing Initiates First Segment of Planned Worldwide Network - Transatlantic Fiber-optic Cable

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Hamilton, Bermuda - Global Crossing announced today that it has begun transmitting voice and data communications through Atlantic Crossing (AC-1), a state-of-the-art undersea fiber-optic telecommunications system that will eventually double the total capacity now in service across the Atlantic Ocean. Full city-to-city connectivity will be provided, interconnecting major European cities to U.S. cities.

Constructed by Tyco Submarine Systems Ltd., the AC-1 segment that Global Crossing "lit up" today links the United States and the United Kingdom. Service to Germany is expected to commence in November. The complete system, extending service to the Netherlands, is expected to be finished in February 1999.

When complete, AC-1 and three other planned Global Crossing cable systems will comprise the world's first independent, open-access fiber-optic global telecommunications network, providing seamless data and voice links between Europe, North America, Latin America, and Asia.

Other currently planned segments on the Global Crossing Network include:

- Pacific Crossing (PC-1), connecting the United States and Japan, scheduled to begin service in early 2000.
- Mid-Atlantic Crossing (MAC), a system connecting the eastern United States, Bermuda, and the Caribbean, scheduled to begin service in late 1999.
- Pan-American Crossing (PAC), connecting the western United States, Central America, and the Caribbean, scheduled to begin service in early 2000.

Initially, AC-1 will carry voice and data communications at a rate of 20 gigabits per second. Upon completion, the entire AC-1 system, using bi-directional transport capacity shared over four fiber pairs, will provide transmission capacity of 40 gigabits per second - more than double the capacity of existing North Atlantic systems. Combining state-of-the-art Wavelength Division Multiplexing (WDM) and Erbium Doped Fiber Amplifier technology, AC-1 will be the world's most modern sub-sea cable system.

"This is the most powerful undersea telecommunications system in the world," said Jack Scanlon, Global Crossing's chief executive officer. "It allows us to provide the lowest transmission prices in the industry for U.S.-Europe traffic."

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