

News Release



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Columbus Networks Tripling Broadband Capacity on Sub-sea Fiber Network *New multi-million-dollar network platform enables growth in the Pan Caribbean and Latin America Region*

MIAMI – (Feb. 4, 2008) – Columbus Networks says it is tripling the bandwidth capability of its ARCOS sub-sea fiber optic system to stay ahead of growing broadband demand throughout the Pan-Caribbean and Latin American Region.

Columbus Networks is installing a new multi-million-dollar network infrastructure platform that uses the latest optical transport technology. The new network platform also increases network resilience and expands service offerings. Columbus Networks expects to complete installation in March 2008 with an initial 40 of up to 300 gigabits per second of additional transport capacity over a fiber pair.

“Just as in-country service providers keep strengthening their telecommunication networks to support new technologies while rolling out more DSL, cable, fiber to the home, WiMax and other broadband services, Columbus Networks will be there to meet their ever expanding transport needs,” said Paul Scott, president and chief operating officer of Columbus Networks.

“We are not the drivers of this unprecedented growth but we surely are the enablers,” Scott said.

During 2007, Columbus Networks provided its customers more than 10 times the transport capacity they were using five years ago. The new network platform and several other previously announced network expansion and improvement projects are in response to the growing demand for bandwidth from regional telecommunications carriers, cable television companies, Internet service providers and network integrators throughout the region.

“We fundamentally believe in the growth potential of this region and we have the financial backing from our parent company, Columbus Communications, to strengthen and reinforce the ARCOS system, to meet the market’s needs,” Scott said. “We haven’t even scratched the surface of video and the extra broadband demand it represents.”

Columbus Networks is deploying new high capacity dense wavelength division multiplexing, or DWDM, technology from Allen, Texas-based Xtera Communications Inc. throughout the ARCOS system. Columbus Networks' new platform takes advantage of new DWDM concepts and design especially in the area of all-Raman amplification and optical laser redundancy that result in increased system broadband capability, service performance and reliability

“The new equipment carries with it greatly improved performance and reliability by design,” said Peter Collins, executive vice president and chief technology officer of Columbus Networks. “For example, critical optical modules are now fault-tolerant and actually able to maintain service even after sustaining a component failure.”

In addition to the three-fold increase in carrying capability of Xtera Communications' Nu-Wave XLS, all-Raman DWDM system, the new platform allows Columbus Networks to implement future capacity expansions 'in-service' without affecting customers' existing data traffic.

“In previous upgrades, each fiber cable segment had to be temporarily taken down and reconditioned, creating service interruptions for carrier customers,” Collins said. “With this new technology, future capacity upgrades on the ARCOS system will be seamless.”

Nu-Wave XLS optical design capacity enables up to 300 gigabits per second on any dark fiber pair. Each cable segment on the ARCOS system has 10 dark fiber pairs available for future growth.

About Columbus Networks

Columbus Networks is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Bridgetown Barbados-based Columbus International Inc. Columbus Networks is a 94% owner and principal operator of the Americas Region Caribbean Optical-ring System (ARCOS). Columbus Networks is a telecommunications service provider that offers broadband and IP capacity services to telecom carriers, TV cable companies, Internet Service Providers and network integrators. With more than 11,000 km of active undersea fiber optic cable, the company's ARCOS network combined with its new undersea link to Trinidad that was recently placed into service and its affiliate companies sub-sea networks in The Bahamas (Caribbean Crossing) and Jamaica (Fibralink), positions Columbus Networks as the leading undersea broadband fiber-optic cable network provider connecting the U.S., Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean. The company's website is www.columbus-networks.com. Telephone: 1-786-274-7400.

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