



Cyta and STE provide fully resilient bridge between Europe and the Middle East via new ALASIA Cable System

NICOSIA, 7th September, 2011 – Cyprus Telecommunications Authority (Cyta), the primary telecommunications network and services provider in Cyprus, and Syrian Telecommunications Establishment (STE), the incumbent telecommunications provider in Syria, in association with other minority co-owners, will launch the co-owned ALASIA Cable System connecting Syria and Cyprus to provide the region with a full redundancy solution.

The ALASIA Cable System is a repeaterless submarine cable system that connects Syria and Cyprus and will be interconnected with Cyta's ALEXANDROS Cable Subsystem to provide connectivity to European destinations and beyond. This will complement the existing UGARIT Cable System, which also connects the two countries, to offer an alternative routing and improve resilience. The UGARIT Cable System has been recently upgraded to form a ring system with the existing BERYTAR and CADMOS cable systems, connecting Syria-Lebanon and Lebanon-Cyprus respectively, offering additional access capabilities and alternate routings for improved protection. The seamless self-healing ring between the three countries is designed with 40 wavelengths, each capable of achieving up to 40Gbps. The ALASIA Cable System has a 25.6 Tbps design capacity with eight fiber pairs and it is expected to be completed before end 2012.

With the ALASIA Cable System, Cyta, STE and the other co-owners, will be in a position to respond to the increasing demand for international connectivity between the Middle East, Europe and the Far East. The ALASIA Cable System will constitute a high quality bridge between the East and the West. With the ALASIA Cable System's capability to handle the increasing demand for international connectivity, STE targets to grow its domestic business in Syria by substantially boosting the country's Internet penetration to 21% by 2015.

Mr. Bakr Bakr, STE's Director General said, "ALASIA project will enable STE to link its domestic growing network and the neighbouring countries networks to Western Europe through new fiber optic infrastructure consisting of ALASIA and ALEXANDROS. This terabit fiber optic cable combination (ALASIA and ALEXANDROS) in addition to the existing UGARIT System will ensure continuous and reliable connectivity between East and West ensuring the role of Syria of being the Middle East's Internet gateway to Europe. In consideration of other terrestrial cable projects in the region, ALASIA will have the advantage of ensuring another diversified route from the existing submarine cables passing through the Mediterranean Sea. Our participation in the ALASIA Cable Network comes as part of our commitment towards providing our customers with the best, reliable services and technologies and to help boost internet penetration levels in Syria and support its belief in the investment in ICT and content development."

Mr. Photis Savvides, Cyta's Chief Executive Officer said, "The agreement for ALASIA fosters a new partnership between Cyta and STE that will enhance the strategic role of Cyprus through Cyta, as a major cable hub in the Eastern Mediterranean, and facilitate STE's strategic goal to strengthen its position in the international telecommunications landscape. At the same time, the new cable system provides Cyta, STE and the other minority co-owners with business opportunities to access new markets, particularly as the growing economic importance of Asia gains momentum in the coming years."

Cyta and STE, as landing parties of the ALASIA Cable System, in association with the other co-owners intend to distribute a detailed press-release about the progress of the project, by end November 2011.

About STE

Syrian Telecommunications Establishment (STE) is a public establishment of an economical nature and a considerable entity with financial and administrative independence. It is linked to the Ministry of Communications and Technology. STE provides telecommunication services according to the policy drawn by the board of directors. STE is trying to keeping pace with the technology revolution in the telecommunication world.

About Cyta

Cyprus Telecommunications Authority (Cyta) is the primary telecommunications provider in Cyprus. Its product portfolio covers the whole spectrum of electronic communications ranging from fixed and mobile telephony to internet service provision and broadband applications.

Cyta, through its strategic business unit Cytaglobal, is particularly active in the area of international submarine fibre optic cables, providing wholesale products and services on a global basis, and has established Cyprus as a regional telecommunications hub in the Eastern Mediterranean. To learn more about Cyta and Cytaglobal please visit <http://www.cytaglobal.com>.

For more information, please contact:

Yiannis Koulias
Director National & International Wholesale Market, Cytaglobal

Cyta

Tel: +35722701652

Email: yiannis.koulias@cyta.com.cy

Nour Eddin Sabbagh

CCO

STE

Tel: +963 11 612 2240 / 612 2251

Email: commercial@syriantelecom.sy / ahmad.sounbol@syriantelecom.sy