

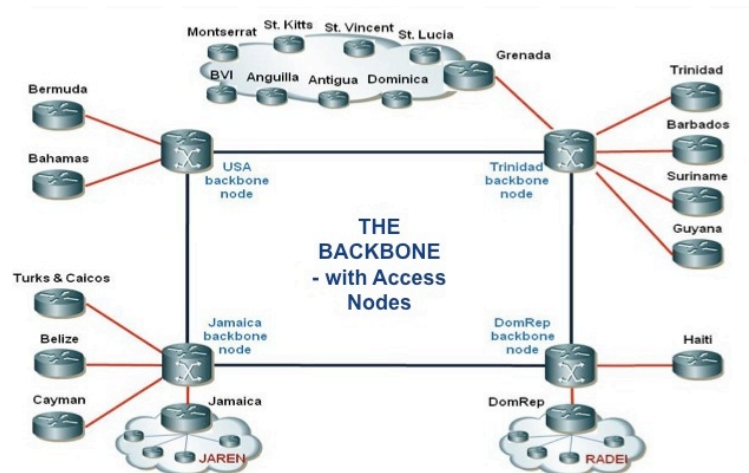
August 31, 2011

*Please share this News Update with interested colleagues.
For more information, visit our website: www.ckln.org.*

C@ribNET IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS

Further to the landmark agreement between CKLN and telecommunications provider LIME in July 2011, plans are well underway for implementation of the C@ribNET infrastructure. Representatives from CKLN and LIME met in Jamaica recently to finalize plans for implementation and negotiations are ongoing with the nominated supplier for equipment.

The schematic to the right shows the connectivity.



According to CKLN Programme Manager, David Edwards, "The discussions with our various partners in this process are coming along well, realising that each depend on the other". He also noted that the procurement process for the Network Operations Centre (NOC) is also underway and should be completed by early November. The NOC is an integral part of the regional network and is responsible for maintaining the quality of service and customer satisfaction. For further information on the Expression of Interest for NOC Services, please see <http://www.ckln.org/home/content/tenders>

STRATEGY FOR SUSTAINABILITY of C@ribNET

As an integral part of the implementation strategy of C@ribNET, CKLN has engaged the services of a Canadian based firm, Logix Consultants, to work with the CKLN team to prepare a strategy and an action plan for the sustainability for the network. Similar to research and education networks around the world, C@ribNET is provided as a public good and as such, sustainability is always critical.

The consultants will conduct the necessary investigations, studies, look at best practices of networks, and advise CKLN on the best strategy to achieve sustainability of C@RIBNET, based on the unique situation and nuances of the region.



The terms of the contract also requires Logix Consultants to prepare a model business plan for the NREN in Trinidad and Tobago (national knowledge, education, and research networks), which will be used as a model for building other NRENs in the Caribbean. The exercise is an activity under an initiative financed by the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB). The consultants are expected to complete the assignment by the end of the 2011.

NATIONAL RESEARCH & EDUCATION NETWORK BLUEPRINTS COMPLETED

Earlier this year, CKLN facilitated consultations in some Caribbean countries to introduce, in some cases, and to strengthen in others, the concept of national research and education networks, internationally referred to as NRENS. (For more info on NRENS, see the CKLN website <http://www.ckln.org/home/content/cribnet-1>)



With financial support from the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB), the consultations were undertaken in the Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Haiti, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago.

Strategic plans are essential to support the changing landscape of research and education, and NRENS must not only be established, but take an active role and develop strategies to meet the challenges. In recognition of this, and based on the experience and processes learned from the over 100 global NRENS, a draft blueprint was developed for each country visited.

At each national consultation, the blueprint was a springboard for consensus building, sharing experiences, reviewing progress and raising awareness on governance, business plans and other sustainability issues, ensuring that local culture and nuances were reflected and respected. The proposed blueprints have been finalised, and include recommendations coming from rigorous input of representatives from various institutions from higher education, research, and government, including healthcare facilities, museums, libraries, schools etc.

With the completed blueprint, each country will have a road map for developing their NRENS. The Dominican Republic, Trinidad & Tobago and Barbados are well on their way to establishing their NRENS and CKLN will of course continue to work with member states, providing support for the development of their NRENS.

THE LIME PARTNERSHIP

Following the signing of the agreement with LIME, for the provisioning and implementation of the core network, C@ribNET, valued 6.3 million, in the spirit of partnership LIME has made a generous contribution of bandwidth to CKLN that will allow the connection of one tertiary institution in each country where LIME operates.

According to CKLN's Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Ken Sylvester, "C@ribNET is being implemented as a public good and its sustainability will in part, depend on the goodwill of several partners, including the private sector. This contribution from LIME leads the way and provides an example for other private sector companies to participate in C@ribNET and support its sustainability as a public good."

LIME officials were pleased to sign an MOU with CKLN on this partnership contribution, emphasising that they saw it more than just providing connectivity, but recognised the intrinsic value of C@ribNET providing a public good for the region, which was in keeping with their regional mandate.

Funding for C@ribNET is under a grant that CKLN secured from the European Union.

CONVERSATIONS WITH FRENCH TERRITORIES



While C@ribNET was designed to provide connectivity to CARIFORUM countries (Antigua and Barbuda, the Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, the Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guyana,

Haiti, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago), CKLN has commenced dialogue with RENATER, the French NREN, to which Martinique, Guadeloupe & French Guyana are currently connected. The discussions between CKLN and RENATER are with a view to determine how RENATER can collaborate with CKLN to leverage use of C@ribNET for integrating these French territories into the C@ribNET family.

The parties are actively exploring, not just connectivity, but also the potential applications that the tertiary institutions in the French Caribbean can share. These discussions are ongoing.

OTHER NEWS - Look out for a four-part TV feature "NEWSMAKER" about CKLN and C@ribNET, featuring Chairperson Dr. Camella Rhone and CEO, Mr. Ken Sylvester – to be broadcast in September on local cable channels across the region.