



CABLE & WIRELESS

## Cable & Wireless SA Ltd First Fibre Network for St Helena

On Friday 22 July, Cable & Wireless staff completed the installation and commissioning of the first fibre optic cable on St. Helena. The new cable connects the television receive antennas at Bryant's Beacon to the Cable & Wireless SA Ltd Technical Centre in the Briars. This installation is a key milestone in the development of St. Helena's telecommunications infrastructure. Plans are now being made for further fibre optic cable installations.

This £40k project provides a high quality high capacity link to replace an old analogue coaxial cable link which was installed just over sixteen years ago and is now ready for replacement. Television content rebroadcast by Cable & Wireless is now carried on this new link, which will be a key element for future television rebroadcast network developments.

In addition to the installation of the cable, the project which started in May has involved a lot of preparation work. This has included the construction of underground ducting between Bryant's Beacon and the cliff edge at Two Gun Saddle, preparation of poles to support the overhead section of the cable down the hill from Two Gun Saddle and further duct work within the Briars compound. New fibre optic transmission systems and power systems have also been installed at Bryant's Beacon and The Briars.

The installation was led by Senior Networks Technician, Deon Yon and Service Provisioning Supervisor, Kevin George who have previously attended overseas and locally run fibre optic training courses.

Kevin who was responsible for the external works, has also been involved in fibre installation on Ascension Island and on the Falkland Islands commented "the team did an excellent job and enjoyed being a part of this key milestone for St Helena, it was great to be able to transfer skills to staff who haven't had the opportunity to be involved in fibre optic cable installation before".



*Service Provisioning Staff securing external Fibre cable along aerial route.*



*Staff splicing external fibre to internal fibre.*

Deon who was responsible for the fibre transmission system elements commented "the Technicians did a great job in applying their multitude of skills during all aspects of this project".

Manager Networks Anthony Thomas concluded "the team worked extremely hard in difficult conditions and it is great to see completion of projects through high standards of teamwork. This upgrade demonstrates Cable & Wireless SA Ltd continued commitment to invest and improve on methods of service delivery to customers".