



PROVENCE PROMOTION

The story of "Sea me We 4"...

Marseilles and its good connections!

The installation of the See-Me-We 4 telecommunications cable is a genuine technological achievement marking the beginning of a new era for Marseilles. With 14 countries connected, See-Me-We 4 and its little brother Medcab (connecting Marseilles to Annaba and Algiers), put the Phocean city in a key position as a terminal connected to the whole world in a new field – telecommunications flows. Jean Godeluck, president of the submarine networks activity at Alcatel, the Contractor, gives us the story line!



Jean Godeluck

> Cables are popular in the Mediterranean

Jean Godeluck : The project was awarded to Alcatel and its partner Fujitsu in March 2004, and was successful despite a very tight schedule. Construction of Sea-Me-We 4 began in April 2004 and was completed in October 2005 ready for inauguration in December 2005, thus taking 18 months between when the work started and when the system was ready to transmit. About 2 700 km of cables were laid between France (Marseilles) and Egypt (Alexandria) with links to Italy (Palermo), Tunisia (Bizerte) and Algeria (Annaba), across the Mediterranean.

> A new silk route...

Beyond the Mediterranean, the cable continues across land passing through Egypt to join the Red Sea and then crosses the Indian Ocean as far as Singapore including landings in Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Pakistan, India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh (providing it with a submarine system for the first time), Thailand and Malaysia.

The total network is about 20 000 km long and new generation transmission terminals installed in landing stations are based on the most recent optical technologies. This solution consumes very little energy and includes the most recent developments in the field of optical transmission and the network design, in a very compact size.

Finally, landing points common with the Sea-Me-We 3 network (from Germany to Australia - 40 000 km - 40 countries) provide secure traffic between the two systems.

> Hello? There are 1 million of us on the line!...

Sea-Me-We 4 has a maximum capacity of 1.28 Terabits per second (1 million simultaneous telephone conversations) over 20 000 km, making it 32 times more powerful than the previous Sea-Me-We 3 system installed in 1998. It significantly increases communication capacities (voice, data and video) in the Middle East and in India and provides the first major connection through a submarine system for some operators in these countries. In this sense, Sea-Me-We 4 satisfies the exploding demand in connected regions, particularly India and the Middle East.

> The Phocean line

The recently installed See-Me-We 4 line confirms Marseilles' vocation as an international platform for communication networks, since it already is home to terminals for important links with North Africa, the Middle East and Asia (Sea-Me-We 2) and also the MedCable network (France-Algeria).

It also demonstrates its economic vitality and the priority given to development of high speed. Due to these two new submarine systems, the town has excellent access to Asia, the United States and Southern Europe and its position is ideal for the connection of future networks.

Furthermore, development of these activities in Marseilles reinforces the presence and role of operators responsible for the operation and maintenance of networks. Therefore local economic activity related to telecommunications is becoming increasingly important, generating new projects in the context of the Secure Smart Solutions world competitiveness cluster.

14 countries and a world consortium :

The system comprises 4 segments, including 3 submarine segments and one segment on land (joining Suez in the Red Sea to Alexandria in the Mediterranean). Alcatel was responsible for three of these segments, the optical equipment for land applications and the network management solution.

The participants in the Sea-Me-We 4 consortium are Singtel (Singapore), TM (Malaysia), CAT (Thailand), BTTB (Bangladesh), BHARTI (India), SLT (Sri Lanka), VSNL (India), PTCL (Pakistan), ETISALAT (United Arab Emirates), STC (Saudi Arabia), TE (Egypt), TIS (Italy), TT (Tunisia), AT (Algeria), FT (France) and MCII (France).