

## **BTL AND HUAWEI CONNECTING SAN PEDRO TO THE WORLD!**

San Pedro is among the most dynamic and growing communities in Belize with a booming tourism and related services sector. The large number of new small and large resorts has, in particular, demanded a massive amount of internet bandwidth to allow for commercial communications and the Wi-Fi needs of customers of these establishments.

To meet this challenge, Belize Telemedia Ltd. today announced its engagement of industry leader Huawei Technologies Ltd to undertake a short term boost to connectivity via an expanded over-the-air microwave link, and more significantly, the installation of an undersea fiber-optic cable that will link San Pedro to Belize and the rest of the world.

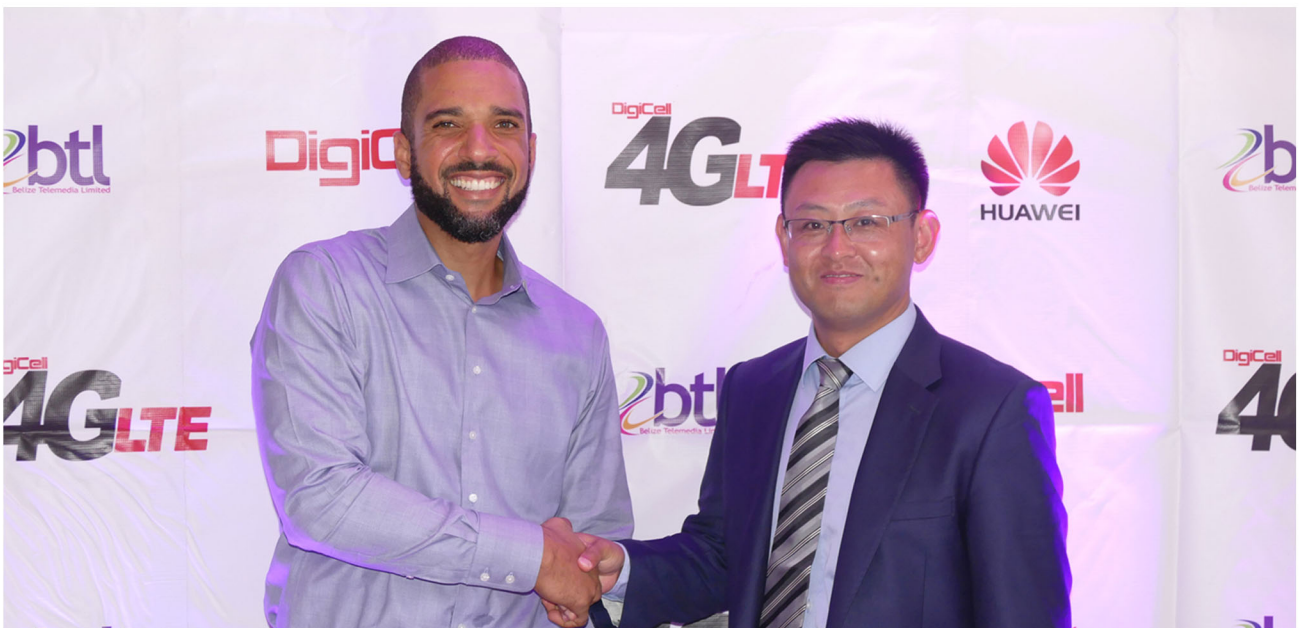
The short term expansion of connectivity, already underway, is the installation of a larger 3G Microwave Link from Belize City to South San Pedro, expanding current bandwidth capacity by 100 percent. This brings immediate expansion of data capacity to meet current demands and to allow for the introduction of BTL's 4G LTE in the coming months under the company's DigiCell Mobile banner.

The longer term infrastructural solution is the undersea fiber optic cable project – dubbed the Strategic Evolution Underwater Link (SEUL). This project is set to commence this month; it will mean the linking of Ambergris Caye to mainland Belize via a fiber optic underwater cable. It is expected to meet the all broadband capacity needs on the island for at least the next 15 to 20 years – allowing customers on Ambergris Caye to get as much broadband as they need and want. The investment in SEUL is expected to total some BZD \$13 Million. The project is scheduled to be completed by summer 2017.

“We have made it our mission to put Belize in the top three in the region in terms of connectivity and broadband speeds. The Strategic Evolution Underwater Link project ensures that the critical commercial center that is San Pedro is not left out of the Broadband revolution that we are undertaking all over Belize,” said Anwar Barrow, Chairman of the BTL Executive Committee.

Mike Constable, CEO of Huawei Marine, added: “We are excited to continue our partnership with BTL, this time to construct a next-generation undersea cable system that will use advanced technology to bring fast, reliable and low-cost connectivity to the people of Belize,”

Huawei Technologies is also the vendor-partner for the BTL in the installation of the 4G LTE Network and brand new mobile core that will come on stream in the coming months.



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