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Press release

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## Orange and SETAR launch the CELIA-CETC project connecting the Caribbean, co-funded by the European Union

- Orange and SETAR have launched the construction of CELIA-CETC (Caribbean ELite Alliance - Caribbean European Territories Cable), new high-capacity “express” fibers in the Caribbean region connecting Aruba and Martinique to Florida (U.S.).
- The CELIA-CETC project receives subsidies from the CEF2 (Connecting Europe Facility 2) program to contribute to the digital connectivity of Aruba and the French territories in the Antilles-French Guiana region.

The CELIA-CETC project powered by a new cable will cover 1900 kilometers and will feature a minimum of 22 terabits per second per fiber pair, with an initial estimated capacity of more than 44 Tbps for the CELIA-CETC scope. This project is expected to go live in the third quarter of 2027. Landing stations will be installed in Le Lamentin (Martinique) and Baby Beach (Aruba), with terminal station in Boca Raton, Florida (U.S.). This project is sub-part of the CELIA cable system which includes other partners and landing sites.



In line with the ambitions of the EU and particularly those of its digital connectivity program, the analysis of the connectivity environment of the Caribbean zone has highlighted major challenges: the expected end of service of the Americas-II cable in 2025, the connectivity reinforcement of European territories, and the digital cooperation of the European Union with neighboring territories. The CELIA CETC project intends to respond to these challenges, following the European requirements expected in terms of digital modernity, security, and autonomy.

CELIA-CETC will enhance connectivity in the Caribbean, providing high-capacity and secure data transfer, very high Internet speeds, and low latency to support the region’s increasing digital demand. This new infrastructure will sustain traffic growth for citizens of Aruba and French Caribbean territories up to at least 2050, with high-capacity bandwidth, low latency, and high resilience.

“Orange is delighted to leverage its leadership and industry expertise in the construction of the CELIA cable that will offer high-performance, fully secure international connectivity in the Caribbean region. I thank our partner SETAR as well as the European Union for their support in financing this project, which underscores the EU’s commitment to enhancing connectivity within its borders and beyond. Orange is proud to power global connectivity, developing its infrastructures to connect communities, foster digital exchanges and support societal development in a sustainable way. The CELIA Cable will benefit from the extensive experience of ASN as global supplier and of our subsidiary Orange Marine for the marine deployment.”, explains Michaël Trabbia, CEO of Orange Wholesale.

“SETAR is excited to be part of the CELIA-CETC project. We are happy with the collaboration with Orange to receive this subsidy from the CEF2 (Connecting Europe Facility 2) program. For an island like Aruba, being connected to the global network helps us to be resilient, connect globally, drive education and private investments and to foster sustainable development for our island.” – Roland Croes, CEO SETAR N.V.

Committed to strong environmental, social, and governance (ESG) principles, energy-efficient fiber optic technologies will be used, allowing significantly more data transmission with the same energy. State-of-the-art cooling equipment will improve electrical efficiency by approximately 30%. The consortium is committed to avoiding protected or environmentally sensitive areas and preserve biodiversity during deployment. Environmental studies will also be conducted with NGOs and government authorities. The stations are prepared for adverse conditions like hurricanes and earthquakes, with continuity plans to minimize impacts.

The CELIA consortium includes SETAR N.V., Orange, Telxius, and APUA.

#### About Orange

Orange is one of the world’s leading telecommunications operators with revenues of 39.7 billion euros in 2023 and 128,000 employees worldwide at 30 September 2024, including 71,000 employees in France. The Group has a total customer base of 292 million customers worldwide at 30 September 2024, including 253 million mobile customers and 22 million fixed broadband customers. These figures have been restated to account for the deconsolidation of certain activities in Spain following the creation of MASORANGE. The Group is present in 26 countries (including non-consolidated countries). Orange is also a leading provider of global IT and telecommunication services to multinational companies under the brand Orange Business. In February 2023, the Group presented its strategic plan "Lead the Future", built on a new business model and guided by responsibility and efficiency. "Lead the Future" capitalizes on network excellence to reinforce Orange's leadership in service quality.

Orange is listed on Euronext Paris (symbol ORA).

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#### About SETAR

As the leader in Technology, Media and Telecommunications on Aruba, SETAR prides itself for continuously bringing the newest technologies and innovative products, services and apps for the Aruban community. We are an all-service provider offering service solutions to fit every need. We deliver advanced mobile, Cable TV (IPTV), high-speed Internet services and fixed telephony for our residential and business customers. We believe in constant innovation in the technology of telecommunications for further development of our company and our island. In today’s world, connection at all times is essential. Therefore, we are proud to be able to connect everything and everyone seamlessly together.

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