



THE ACELINK UNDERSEA CABLE PROJECT

PROJECT REPORT

NOV 2019

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Acelink Undersea Cable Project aimed to bolster data connectivity between Portugal, Spain, and the United States. Involving stakeholders from telecommunication companies, technology firms, service providers, and government entities, the project sought to stimulate economic growth and bridge digital divides.

Feasibility studies and market research informed the project's planning and design phase, yielding a design blueprint that guided the project. Legal, trade, and regulatory considerations were taken into account during the negotiation and contracting phase.

Implementation involved a coordinated effort from various engineering disciplines, from physical cable installation to software development.

Environmental and societal impact assessments were conducted to ensure the project's sustainability and acceptance.

The project faced a significant challenge when a hurricane disrupted operations. Crisis management and timely communication with maritime agencies and policymakers were crucial in navigating this situation.

Upon completion, the project was reviewed in depth, including financials, project objectives, stakeholder feedback, and lessons learned. The Acelink Undersea Cable Project demonstrates the potential of international collaboration and the pivotal role of communication in achieving a shared vision across different fields and cultures.



Linking
Worlds,
Unleashing
Possibilities

INTRODUCTION

The Acelink Undersea Cable Project was initiated as a strategic response to the growing demand for faster and more reliable data connectivity between Portugal, Spain, and the United States. This transatlantic project required the collaboration of numerous global stakeholders, encompassing telecommunication companies, technology firms, internet service providers, undersea cable installation specialists, environmental consultants, and government officials from these nations.

These stakeholders were committed to a shared vision - developing an undersea cable infrastructure that would significantly enhance the data transfer capabilities between the three countries. With the potential to foster international collaboration, stimulate economic growth, and bridge digital divides, this project was of high strategic importance for the participating countries and the corporations involved.

PLANNING & DESIGN

The project's first phase was marked by an intensive feasibility study. This stage involved detailed analysis and consultation between network architects, computer scientists, and engineering teams from the participating companies. Each entity presented its understanding of the project, followed by brainstorming sessions to align individual objectives and outline shared goals. The primary output of this phase was the initial design project blueprint, a crucial document that laid down the technical and operational framework for the project.

Simultaneously, comprehensive market research was conducted by dedicated teams to understand the projected demand, cost implications, and potential return on investment. Inputs from this study were integrated into the planning phase, thereby shaping the strategic direction of the project.

This project has been dedicated to creating robust and reliable data connectivity infrastructure, enhancing international collaboration, stimulating economic growth, and bridging digital divides - all while demonstrating responsible environmental stewardship and fostering unity among diverse international stakeholders.

Noelie May

Executive Project Manager



NEGOTIATION, CONTRACTING & REGULATORY APPROVAL

The next stage involved negotiating a contract that balanced the interests of all parties involved, a task that was both technically and culturally complex. Lawyers and executives from each company, versed in international business law and trade agreements, joined forces to draft a fair and beneficial agreement. This process required effective communication and understanding of the different business cultures and legal systems of the three nations involved.

At the same time, the project team engaged in rigorous discussions with policymakers and regulatory bodies from Portugal, Spain, and the United States. Compliance with local and international regulations was critical, and the team worked hard to ensure the project plan aligned with all applicable laws and environmental guidelines.

Davide Proust

Chief Contract Manager

Global negotiations have always been the bedrock upon which shared success can be achieved.

IMPLEMENTATION

The implementation phase saw the undersea cable's physical installation. This stage involved the coordinated efforts of telecommunications engineers, hardware engineers, marine engineers, and undersea cable installation specialists from France. Activities ranged from the preparation of the ship and equipment to navigating the challenging marine terrain during cable installation. Meanwhile, computer scientists and network engineers were simultaneously working on developing the network architecture and software to support the new cable system.

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIETAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

An integral part of the project was assessing its potential impact on the environment and society. Environmental engineers collaborated with consultants from the UK to conduct in-depth studies on seabed conditions, marine life, and the cable's possible long-term effects on the ecosystem.

Local communities' views and concerns were also considered, with social scientists conducting field studies to understand potential societal impacts. Findings from these assessments were openly communicated to policymakers, and steps were taken to mitigate any negative impacts, highlighting the project's commitment to responsible and sustainable development.

CRISIS MANAGEMENT

When a hurricane hit the Atlantic Ocean, causing severe disruption to the cable installation process, the project faced a major crisis. The response was swift and coordinated, with meteorologists providing real-time updates on weather conditions, project managers re-organizing work schedules, and engineers assessing the extent of the damage.

Clear, timely communication was essential during this crisis. The project team worked around the clock, keeping maritime agencies and policymakers informed about the situation, the projected impact, and the plan of action for getting the project back on track.

PROJECT COMPLETION

Once the undersea cable system was fully installed and tested by a team of network engineers, it was time to document the project's outcomes. The final report, prepared in multiple languages, detailed the project's journey from conception to completion. It outlined the technical achievements, compliance with environmental regulations, and the benefits of the upgraded infrastructure to all stakeholders.

The final report was not just a project summary but a testament to the power of international collaboration and diverse stakeholder engagement in achieving a common objective.

REVIEW AND REFLECTION

After the project's completion, a comprehensive review was undertaken. The review process involved a detailed financial analysis, assessment of project objectives achieved, stakeholder feedback, and lessons learned. It was an opportunity to acknowledge the importance of effective collaboration and communication across diverse disciplines and cultural contexts in the success of the project.



Marcel Adame

Head of Communications

Reflecting on our journey, it was a triumph
fueled by diversity and collaboration.

CONCLUSION

The Acelink Undersea Cable Project, despite the challenges, proved to be a remarkable example of international collaboration. The project underscored the value of coordinated efforts across various fields of expertise and the importance of effective communication in driving a shared vision. This narrative serves as a testimony to the potential of global partnerships in engineering, where shared goals unite different disciplines and backgrounds, fostering innovation and advancement.