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# Issue 8

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December 27, 2025

### 1. Digital Readiness Assessment & Roadmap – from concept to competitive tender

*MPAAI launches National Digital Readiness Assessment & Roadmap RFP and pre-qualification*

The Ministry of Public Administration and Artificial Intelligence has issued both an Invitation to Register & Pre-Qualify and a full Request for Proposal for a *National Digital Readiness Assessment and Roadmap for Trinidad and Tobago*, with submissions due 8 January 2026. This moves digital readiness from a diagnostic narrative into a funded competitive process that should define GoRTT's priority stack across people, connectivity, government, regulation and economy.

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**Invitation to Register & Pre-Qualify - National Digital Readiness Assessment and Roadmap for Trinidad and...**

The Ministry of Public Administration and Artificial Intelligence (MPAAI), in alignment with the Government of the Republic of Trinidad a...

mpaai.gov.tt

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- **Impact Rating: Medium** – it's still paper until awarded and delivered, but it can become the reference map for 3–5 years of spend.

### 2. Tier IV Data Centre – consultancy EOI opens design lane, not yet delivery

*Consultant EOI issued to "strengthen digital infrastructure via a Tier 4 Data Centre"*

MPAAI has published an Expression of Interest for individual consultants to support "strengthening digital infrastructure via a Tier 4 Data Centre", with the notice posted 3 December 2025 and an EOI deadline of 19 December 2025 now passed. This is a design and advisory move – signalling intent around a sovereign/state-linked Tier IV facility – not yet a construction or service contract.



### Request for Expression of Interest from Individual Consultants to...

The MPAAI invites eligible individual consultants to indicate their interest in being engaged as individual consultants for the establishment of th...

Ministry of Public Administration and Artificial Intelligence

- **Impact Rating: Medium** – high strategic potential, but the current instrument is advisory only.
- **Pilot Watch: Yes** – "governance-first DC" pilot

## 3. Cross-GoRTT ICT procurement – from scattered APPs to shared services

*GoRTT's 2025/26 procurement schedules reveal a fragmented but sizeable ICT/OT pipeline*

Across the Annual Schedules of Planned Procurement Activities (ASPPAs) now published on ProcureTT and public-body websites, multiple entities are planning ICT and OT investments for 2025/26 – including the Ministry of Planning and Development, T&TEC, TTPost, and MOWT. Together, they form a de facto digital-modernisation pipeline, but today it appears as isolated line items, not an intentional shared-services roadmap.
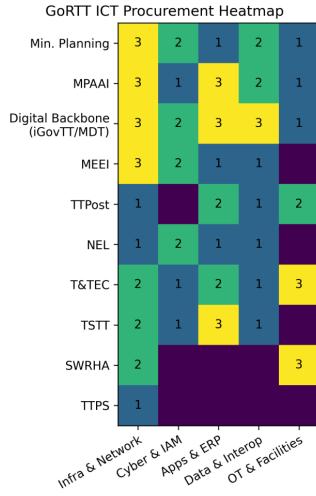


### Annual Schedule of Planned Procurement Activities -...

Annual Schedule of Planned Procurement Activities

ProcureTT

**Concrete examples beyond the Planning Ministry:**

- **T&TEC – Grid SCADA & OT/IT stack (critical infrastructure)**
- **TTPost – Core ERP and integration**
- **MOWT – Datacentre resources & firewall upgrades**

Add to this the **Ministry of Planning's own schedule**, which lists: cloud services for DevelopTT (UNSPSC 43231500), ICT infrastructure lifecycle modernisation, enterprise cybersecurity, data backup/DR, and network backbone work.

- **Impact Rating: Medium** – the money is still mostly prospective, but the *volume and variety* of ICT-coded projects create real scope for consolidation and standards.
- **Pilot Watch: Yes** – "ICT procurement heatmap" pilot

An ICT Procurement Heatmap (Selected bodies)

## 4. CDA–EPI partnership: a ready-made framework for DC skills and audits

*Caribbean Datacenter Association & EPI roll out regional data-centre training pipeline*

On 9 December 2025, the Caribbean Datacenter Association (CDA) and EPI announced a strategic partnership to offer EPI's globally accredited data-centre training and certification (including courses mapped to ANSI/TIA-942, ISO/IEC 22237 and DCOS) to CDA members via EPI Academy's on-demand platform. This plugs Caribbean operators directly into a mature global training framework, including CDCP/CDCS/CDCE and TIA-942 auditor tracks.

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### About Us

EPI provides data centre expert services from data centre training & certifications, data centre audit & validation to data centre consulting services. Find out more!

epi-ap.com

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- **Impact Rating: Medium** – skills and operational standards are leverage multipliers, but only if operators fund seats and embed requirements in hiring and audits.
- **Pilot Watch: Yes – "Gov DC Ops Cohort"**

## 5. Antigua Declaration & idLAC – practical on-ramp for small states

*Antigua Declaration backs idLAC digital-ID broker as regional public good*

Digital government directors meeting in Antigua, Guatemala, on **28–29 October 2025** adopted the **Antigua Declaration** and explicitly recognised the **"Regional Digital Citizen" digital identity broker (idLAC)** as a regional public good for cross-border authentication, alongside calls to strengthen CSIRTAmericas and digital-equity workstreams.

- **Impact Rating: High (normative)** – this is a formal hemispheric signal that **digital ID = core digital public infrastructure**, and that idLAC is the preferred broker layer.
- **Pilot Watch: Yes** – "small-island idLAC on-ramp"

## 6. AI, journalism & regulation – CNTI maps 80 LAC policy proposals

*CNTI flags LAC AI rules converging on bias, transparency and synthetic content*

The Center for News, Technology & Innovation (CNTI) released *Journalism's New Frontier* on 18 December 2025, analysing 188 AI strategies and laws worldwide, including 80 from Latin America and the Caribbean; in the LAC chapter, CNTI notes that 39 of these address algorithmic discrimination and bias, 48 address transparency, 43 deal with data protection and privacy, and 24 explicitly regulate manipulated or synthetic content – often with implications for journalism and election integrity.



**Journalism's New Frontier: An Analysis of Global AI Policy...**

CNTI analyzed 188 national and regional AI strategies, laws and policies that collectively cover more than 99 countries to determine how AI...

Center for News, Technology &amp; Innovation

- **Impact Rating: Medium** – this is regulatory intelligence, not law, but it shows where regional policy will likely land on AI and media.
- **Pilot Watch: Yes** – "AI & election integrity risk sprint"

## 7. RUTE-ALC – telemedicine network with real constraints for Caribbean health

*RUTE-ALC formalises LAC telemedicine network; Caribbean entrants must solve NREN and staffing gaps*

RedCLARA's RUTE-ALC has been formalised as the University Telemedicine Network of Latin America and the Caribbean, with Digital Health Special Interest Groups and a 2025 webinar series (April–November) delivered over national research and education networks (NRENs). For many Caribbean states, the opportunity is clear – shared tele-ICU, tumour boards, emergency coordination – but so are the constraints: patchy NREN presence, inconsistent bandwidth into hospitals, and limited telehealth staff capacity.

### University Telemedicine Network of Latin America and the Caribbean RUTE-ALC

In 2025, RUTE-ALC establishes itself as a collaborative network for health and telemedicine in Latin America and the Caribbean. More than just a series of webinars, it aims to strengthen knowledge exchange and the development of...

Portal2023

- **Impact Rating: Medium** – high potential, but only if countries solve underlying network and staffing issues.
- **Pilot Watch: Yes** – "single-node telehealth pilot"

## Trendline – Fragmented spend vs. regional trust infrastructure

Across these signals a common pattern emerges:

- GoRTT is quietly building a significant ICT/OT pipeline through ASPPAs – from digital readiness and DC design to grid SCADA, ERP and datacentre upgrades – but most of it is being planned entity-by-entity, without an explicit shared-services overlay.
- CDA–EPI and RUTE-ALC provide ready-made capacity platforms (skills for DC ops and telehealth collaboration) that Caribbean actors can join with modest incremental spend – if they organise cohorts and single-node pilots instead of chasing full "big bang" rollouts.
- Hemispheric standards: The Antigua Declaration and idLAC, plus CNTI's AI/journalism mapping, are converging on shared norms for digital identity, cybersecurity collaboration, and AI content governance – forming the trust layer that Port of Spain's regional cloud and CSIRT ambitions will ultimately depend on.

## Verified Future – Trust infrastructure for a Caribbean digital region

The Port of Spain Commitment on Digital Integration and the Antigua Declaration are now strongly aligned:

- Port of Spain: regional government cloud, regional data centre, regional CSIRT using existing and planned data centres across the Caribbean.
- Antigua: digital ID broker (idLAC) as a regional public good, integrated with CSIRTAmericas and broader digital-trust and equity work.

Put together, this points towards a verified future where:

- Digital identity, security operations, and cloud infrastructure become regional utilities – not every island building everything from scratch.
- Participation is tiered, so even small islands with modest capacity can get involved early.

## What this means over the next 6–12 months for Caribbean digital leaders

As governments roll out new networks, data centres, cyber projects and digital ID systems, there's a chance to line them up with where the region is heading — the Antigua Declaration and its idLAC digital identity vision, the Port of Spain push for regional cloud and security cooperation, and

each country's own development goals. The practical task is simple: keep an eye on how today's big ICT investments can quietly build a stronger "trust layer" over time — things like reliable digital identity, secure sign-on, good audit trails, and the ability to work with regional incident-response and identity-broker schemes. When new tenders go out for major systems or AI tools, favour options that move you in that direction, so Caribbean states aren't forced into expensive rewrites later just to connect safely with their neighbours.

**Caribbean CTO Brief**

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