



2022 United Nations Ocean Conference Side Event

SMART Subsea Cables in One Sustainable Ocean: Observing the Global Ocean for Climate Monitoring and Disaster Warning and Risk Reduction.

Tuesday, 28 Jun at 15h15 - 17h, Ocean Stage

In-person side event outside the Conference venue

Organized by: ANACOM and Fórum Oceano

Background on the event

Going beyond telecommunications, Sustainable Monitoring And Reliable Telecommunications (SMART) Subsea Cables are telecom submarine cables with environmental and seismic sensing, fully aligned with the overall theme of the UNOC “Scaling up ocean action based on science and innovation for the implementation of Goal 14: stocktaking, partnerships and solutions”.

Key Issues discussed

- Ocean is the Flywheel of Climate: Stores 90% Heat, CO₂ and determines future Temperature and telecom submarine cables cross all the Oceans and Seas.
- Environmental and seismic detection will be provided with real time data coming directly from deep sea at the service of Science (Oceanography, Geophysics, ...) and People (tsunami and earthquakes early warnings).
- SMART Cables are a disruptive approach in terms of Ocean observation and monitoring.
- SMART Cables allow a more rational use of an exclusively dedicated infrastructure, with a negligible increase in investment and practically zero O&M costs.
- New telecom submarine cable connecting Portugal mainland with the Autonomous regions of Azores and Madeira, by 2025, will be SMART.
- Portugal is leading and is giving the example by endeavor of his scientific community, public Institutes and telecom operators in close collaboration and partnership with the UN System, in particular with the Joint Task Force on SMART Cables (a joint taskforce promoted by the ITU, IOC/UNESCO and WMO, <https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/climatechange/task-force-sc/Pages/default.aspx>).
- Direct beneficiary entities will be National and International scientific communities as well as Portuguese and neighboring countries populations (tsunami and earthquake early warnings);

- <https://www.anacom.pt/render.jsp?contentId=1724368&languageId=1>

Key recommendations for action

- Covering around 3.700 kms in the Northeast Atlantic, deployment of the new CAM ring by 2025 as a SMART Cable,
- with the provision of additional services by this new infrastructure, namely public services for civil protection and scientific research,
- increasing scientific knowledge and developing research capacity and transfer of marine technology and
- establishing a long-range (25 years, life time of the SMART Cable), permanent and real-time submarine observatory in the Northeast Atlantic by attaching sensors to the telecom submarine cable repeaters.

Voluntary Commitments

New telecom submarine cable connecting Portugal mainland with the Autonomous regions of Azores and Madeira by 2025, will allow environmental monitoring and seismic detection serving Science communities and People having in mind the production of Early Warnings for tsunamis and earthquakes with more lead time to increase disaster mitigation, decreasing injuries and increasing prevention of loss of lives.