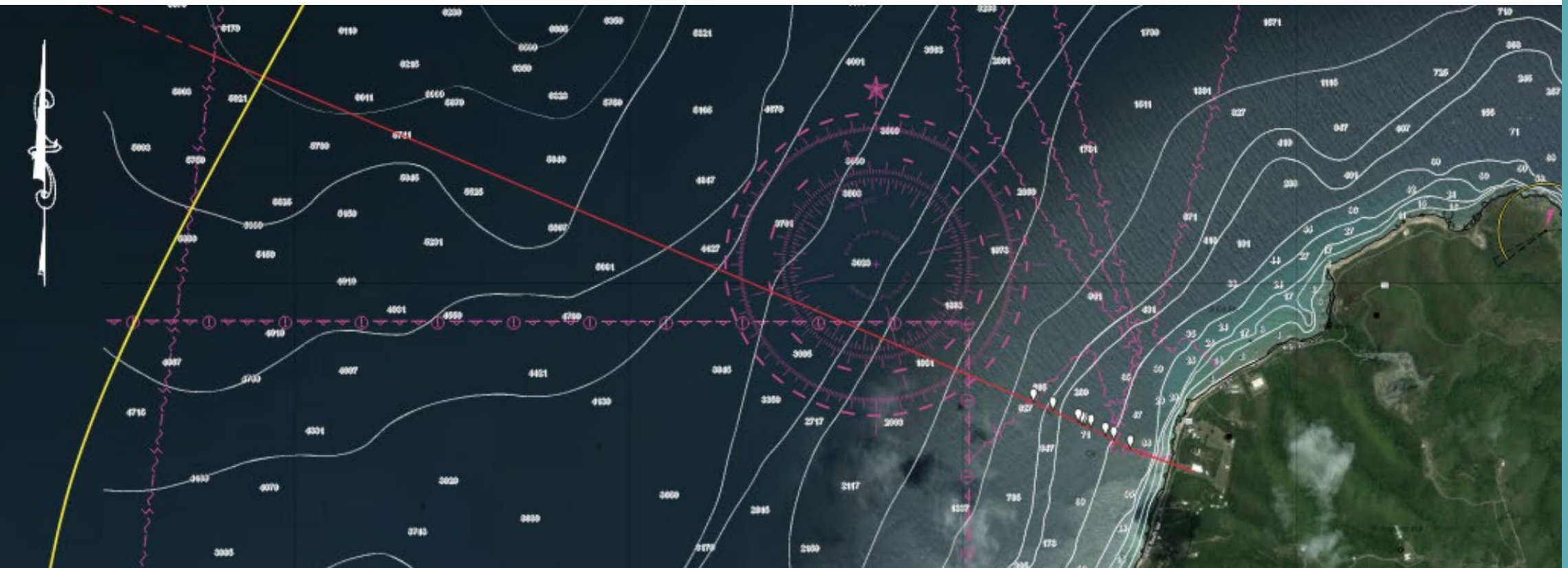
ST. CROIX TELECOMMUNICATIONS CABLE LANDING PROJECT

TRANS-CARIBBEAN FIBER SYSTEM (TCFS) UPGRADE TO EXISTING ST. CROIX COMMUNICATION INFRASTRUCTURE

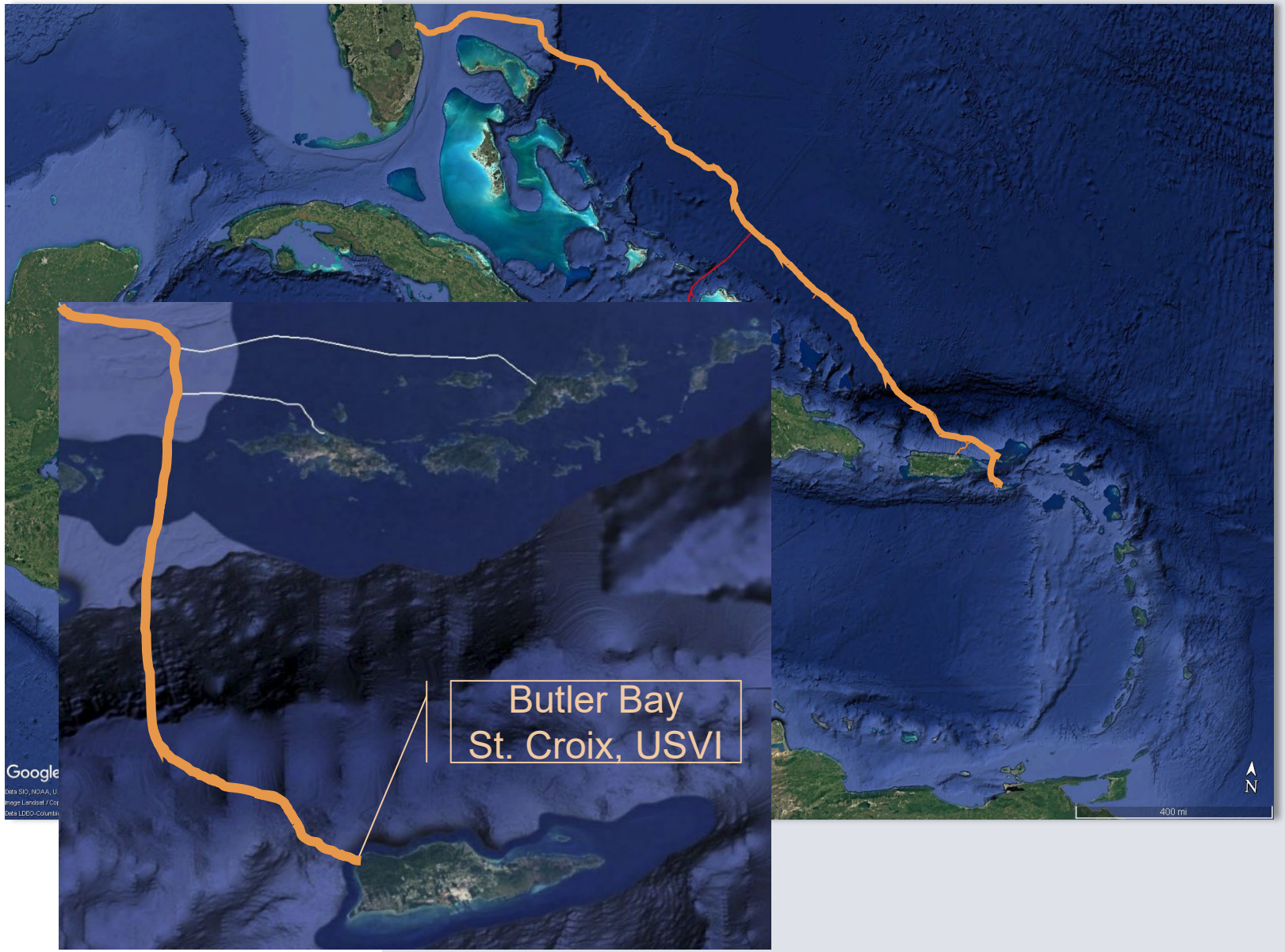
Butler Bay, St. Croix Landing Location



PROJECT SCOPE

Cable Route

- Installation of armoured telecommunication fiber cable to improve capacity and connectivity
- Approximate 4,393-kilometer (km) cable system over several segments
- Primary segement of 2,166-km between Vero Beach, Florida, U.S., and Butler Bay, St. Croix.
- 6 branching segments
  - Magen's Bay, St. Thomas
  - Tortola, BVI
  - Miramar, PR
  - Costa Rica
  - Panama
  - Colombia



USVI Landing

Butler Bay, St. Croix

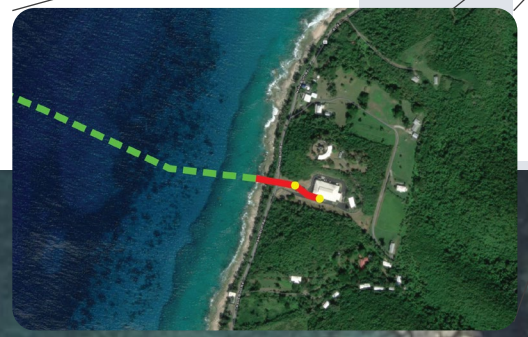
LANDING POINT

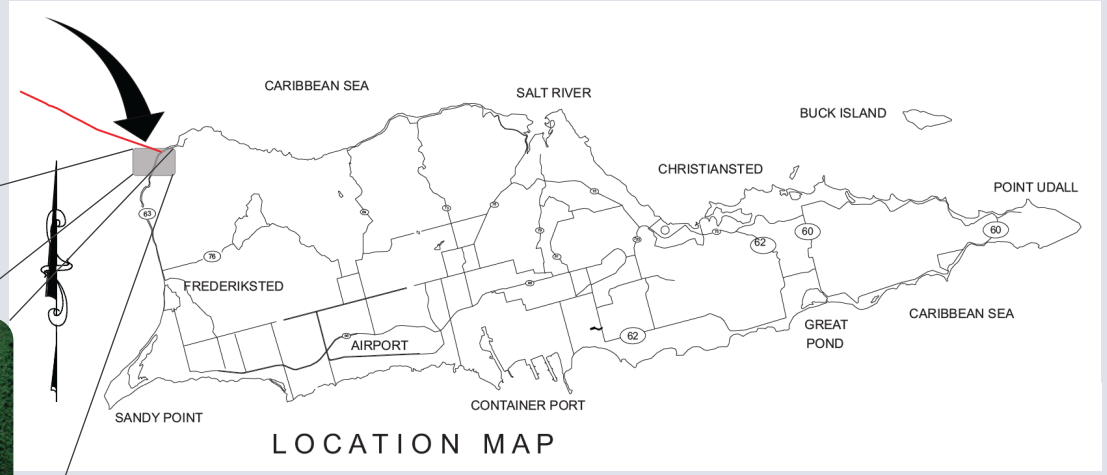
Connection to AT&T of the Virgin Islands telecommunications building at No 4-A Estate Northside, St. Croix.

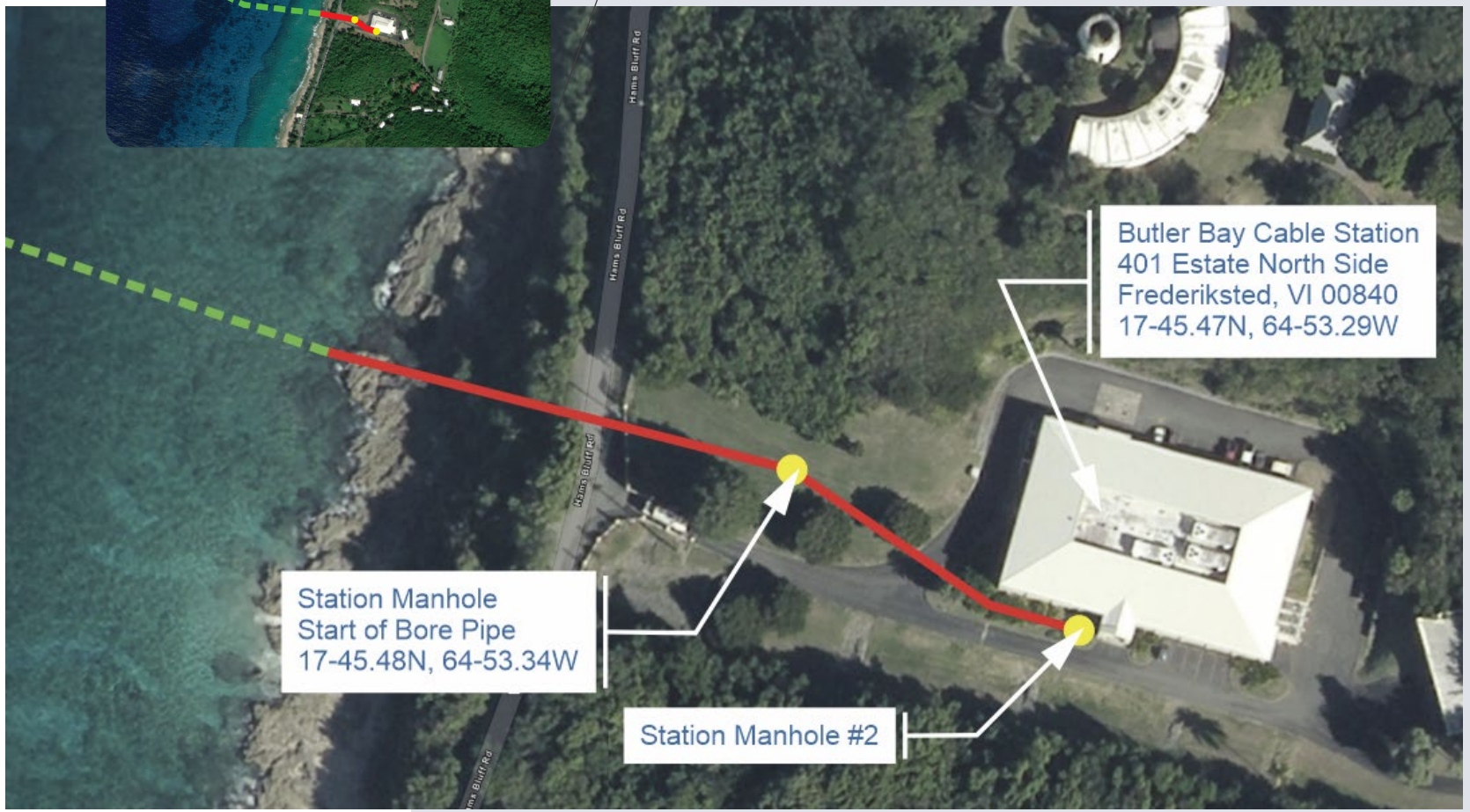
Entry from northeast, connected to existing pipeline bores Butler Bay, St. Croix.

Existing bore to be used extends 738 feet off-shore, in 43 feet deep water.

Cable will be winched through this bore to existing cable station and manholes. No excavation, digging or disturbance of land or shoreline proposed.







PROJECT APPROACH
Construction Phase
Cable Installation

Butler Bay, St. Croix

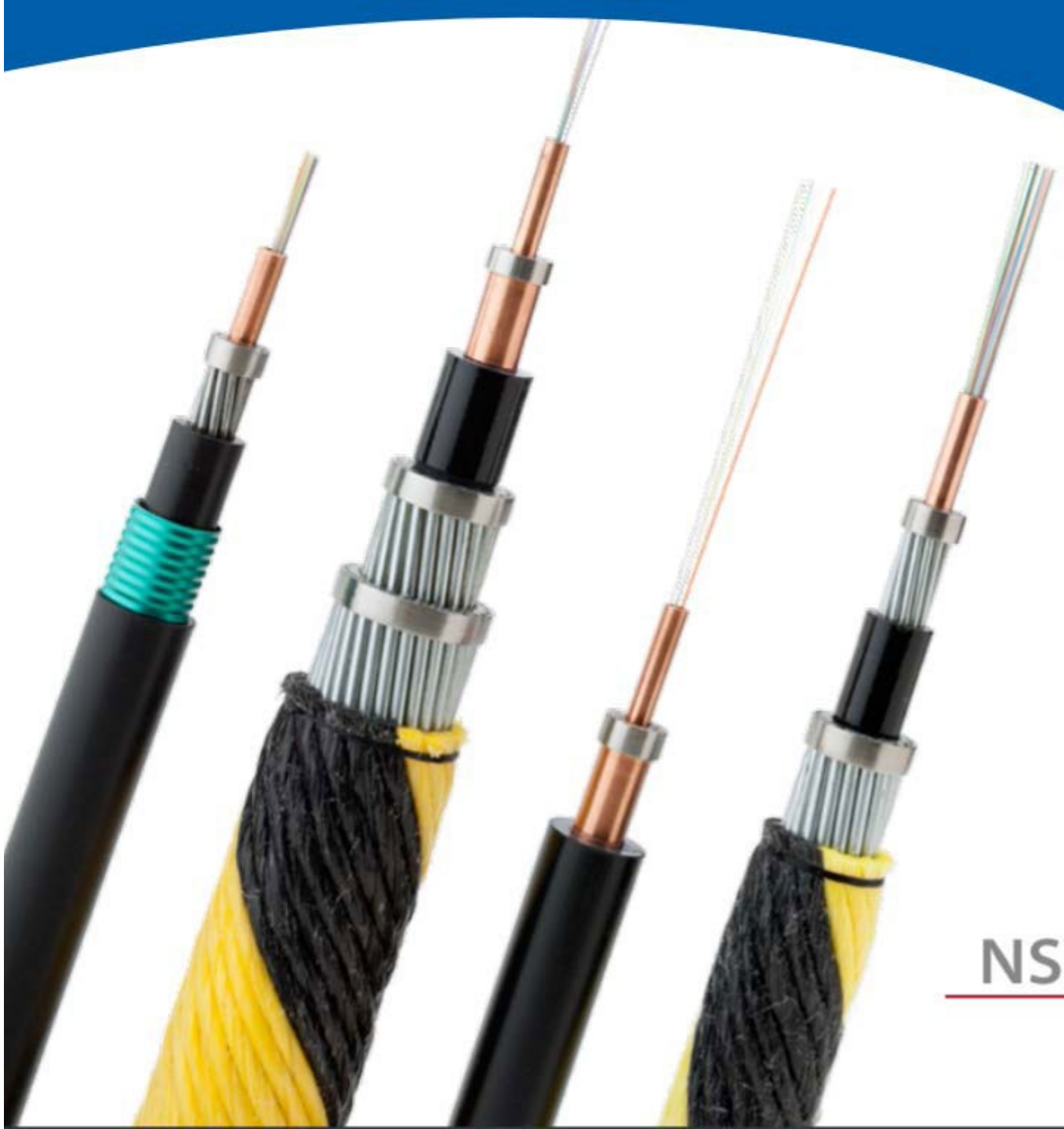
From USVI water boundary to 1.39 miles offshore Light Weight Protected (LWP) will be used.

Single armor (SA) cable will be used to within 0.3 mile from the bore, then switched to Double Armor (DA) cable.

For reference, other branches of the cable project will use Light Weight Protected (LWP) cable or a basic Light Weight 18 (LW) cable for very deep waters.

Cable Types (from Left to Right):

LWP, DA, LW, and SA



PROJECT APPROACH
Construction Phase
Cable Installation

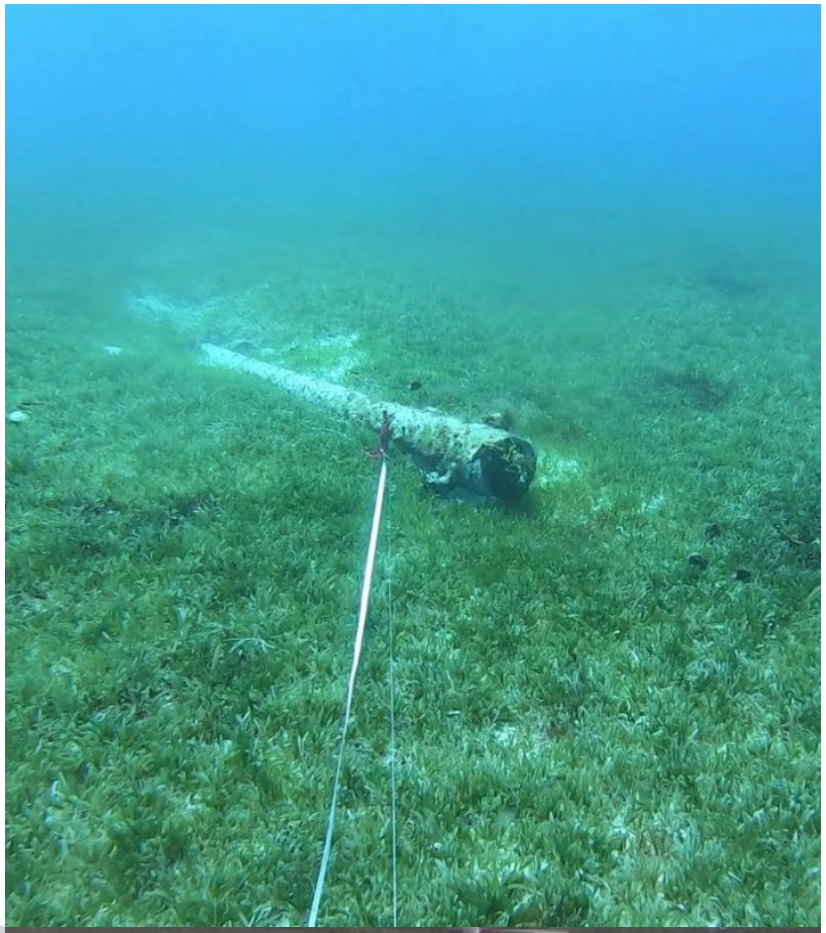
Butler Bay, St. Croix

Cable will be brought into Territorial water using a large Cable Ship.

Transfer of cable to a smaller vessel (Shore End Installation Vessel - SEIV) will be done when more careful placement is required, with diver support.

Cable will be placed by this SEIV and floated within the bay as it approaches the existing bore.

As cable is brought to conduit, winch system will pull cable and with diver support, placed and installed on sea floor.



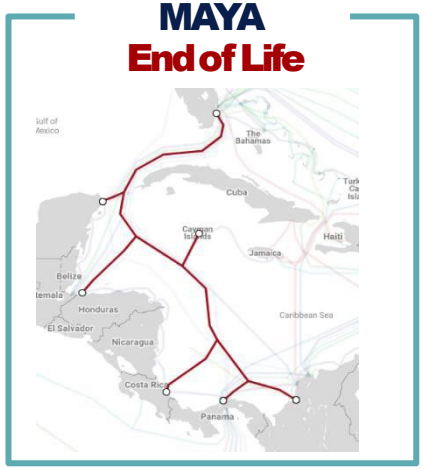
Challenges facing the Region

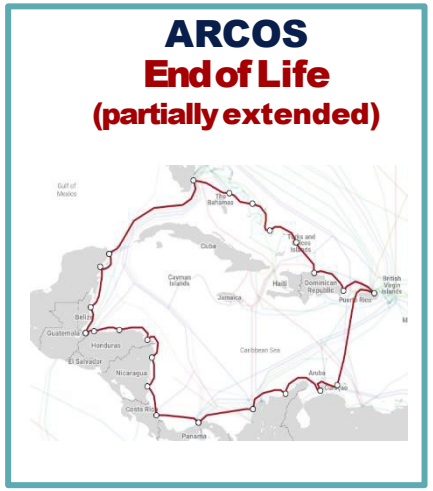
CURRENT STATUS

- The region is severely challenged by having **no additional capacity** and **no redundancy**.
- **The main subsea cables that currently serve the region are at or close to end-of-life** (age 25 years +) and fail to deliver the required speed of data transmission for standard broadband service, let alone full 5G service quality and content to a traditionally underserved region.
- Due to weather threats faced every year**, the region requires diverse connectivity options in case of natural disasters**. A Cross Caribbean Route provides an answer to local South American, Central American and Caribbean Carriers that face bandwidth demand growth.

PROPOSED UPGRADE

- It is designed to provide **the fastest (lowest latency) route between the region and the US.**
- It **enables access to internet nodes in the US** AND it is a **needed path for the increasing traffic between South and North America**.
- **Providing a diverse (redundant) path for North – South traffic** that today uses Systems along the Pacific and Caribbean coastline of Central America.
- It is **a gateway for expansions into the Eastern Caribbean region**.





Anticipated Timeline

Surveys & Assessments conducted starting May 2022

Receipt of permits and finalization of full Scope of Work

Construction begins along deep water route

Installation of cables for St. Croix main section.

Installation of cable for St. Thomas Magen's Bay segement.

MAY – DECEMBER 2023

2025

JUNE 2026

Permit Application Submission and Formal Consultation with Agencies

Approach for installation of cable within USVI waters (3 nm) for St. Croix landing site (main segment)

Questions?

Contacts:

Guy Arnos
Telecommunications Consultant
Trans Americas Fiber US, LLC
Mobile: (703) 980-6450
Email: guy.arnos@tafs-corp.com

Dennis J. Peters
Vice President
Gulf South Research Corporation (GSRC)
Phone: (850) 240-3414
Email: dpeters@gsrcorp.com

Benjamin Keularts
Environmental Engineer
Tysam Tech, LLC
Phone: (340) 514-1888
Email: benjamin.keularts@tysamtech.com

Henry E. Tonnemacher
Environmental Biologist
Video Seven Seas Ltd.
Phone: (728) 212-5320
Email: go7seas@gmail.com