

Atlantic Crossing 1 to Connect the U.S. with the U.K. and Germany

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: MARCH 20, 1997

New York - Global Telesystems Ltd. announced today the signing of an agreement to install a high-capacity four fiber self-healing Synchronous Digital Hierarchy (SDH) ring network connecting the United States with the United Kingdom and Germany. Combining state-of-the-art Wavelength Division Multiplexing (WDM) and Erbium Doped Fiber Amplifier technology, Atlantic Crossing 1 (AC-1), when completed, will be the most advanced undersea telecommunications system ever constructed.

The 14,000 km undersea fiber-optic system has been designed with optical system performance and protection capability. The four fiber, self-healing ring network is equipped with shared multiplex section overhead switching which shares the protection capacity rather than the limited dedicated approach utilized in other ring networks. The AC-1 approach supports maximum traffic capacity and allows for the maximum and most flexible STM-1 routing capability.

"Due to the overwhelming demand for the internet and other new multimedia applications, coupled with market changes driven by deregulation and accounting rate decreases, we expect an explosive growth in telecommunications traffic worldwide," said Gary Winnick, co-chairman of Global Crossing, Ltd. "We expect the North Atlantic Region to be particularly dynamic due to the advanced economies that it services."

AC-1 has been initially provisioned to provide 40 gigabits of bi-directional transport capacity shared over four fiber pairs. The first phase, which will provide connectivity between the U.S. and the U.K., is scheduled for completion in May 1998. Phase two, which will provide ring connectivity among the U.S., the U.K. and Germany, is scheduled for completion in November 1998.

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