

# Gulf Bridge International appoints BT as principal consultant on Gulf-wide subsea cable implementation.

- BT to assist with deployment of USD \$445 million + Cable linking the gulf with Asia and Europe

**Doha-Qatar, 13 May 2009:**

**Gulf Bridge International (GBI)**, the region's first privately owned submarine cable operator, has appointed BT as the principal consultant on the implementation of its USD \$445 million + cable linking the six Gulf countries to each other as well international. As part of its remit, BT will engage its center of excellence, BT subsea, for knowledge and skills transfer to GBI as it delivers a high-capacity fiber optic undersea telecommunications cable system aimed at improving connectivity for Gulf states both regionally and internationally.



The new agreement between GBI and BT will see BT working to ensure that the new GBI subsea cable has the correct level of quality control for information transfer around the region and beyond, as well as providing operational risk management, optimizing project performance and identifying skilled staff to manage the new undersea infrastructure .

“An undertaking of the size and scope require a partner with a demonstrable track record in delivering undersea cables, as well as a significant presence in and broad understanding of both the Middle East and international communications landscapes. BT has all of these characteristics and will help ensure that GBI s new subsea cable is of a world-class standard while helping to keep the project to its intended time and budgets targets, Said Mr. Ahmed Mekky, CEO of Gulf Bridge International.

Set to be operational by 2011, GBI s regional and international submarine cable infrastructure will enable the transmission of real-time transactions by the Middle East s telecom operators, banks , insurance companies, media , educational institutions, airline and other key industries. BT will oversee the construction and deployment of the “Gulf ring” element to connect the UAE, Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar and Saudi Arabia , as well as links India and Italy to provide truly international connectivity.

Signing the agreement with GBI in Doha, Mr. Oscar Ruiz, BT's President of International Telecommunication stated, " Our telecom with GBI will enable BT to share its engineering expertise, industry acumen and regional resources in pursuit of a common goal-ensuring the fastest, most reliable connectivity to underpin regional and international commerce. Our dedicated management resources with specific subsea and operator experience will provide hands-on quality control and technical input, assisting GBI in meeting its regional expansion plans within both the Gulf Region and globally."

Given the need for skilled resources to manage GBI's subsea cable operation, BT will also provide seconded management to work alongside GBI's executive team and assist with recruitment and training efforts.