

WHERE CONSERVATION MEETS CONNECTION

Industry

Telecommunications

Location

South America

Together with CNT Ecuador, we're extending digital access across the Galápagos Islands via O3b mPOWER.



13

islands with equitable connectivity

2.5Gbs

of bandwidth

10%

increase in GDP

From the mesmerising red sand beaches of Rábida Island to the inspiration behind Charles Darwin's theory of evolution, the Galápagos Islands have captivated hearts and minds for generations.

The imminent start of service on SES's next-generation satellite communications system, O3b mPOWER, set the stage for a new era of connectivity in the Galápagos. Ecuador became the first country in the Americas to leverage O3b MEO with a transition plan to O3b mPOWER including an early installation of the O3b mPOWER ground infrastructure.

Corporación Nacional de Telecomunicación (CNT) Ecuador, in partnership with the Ecuadorian Ministry of Telecommunications and Information Society (MINTEL), enhances terrestrial connectivity in the islands via medium Earth orbit (MEO) capacity, offering broadband services to households and dedicated internet services to businesses and government. Its mission is to be the country's leading telecommunications provider, connecting Ecuadorians to the world and bridging the digital divide in the country's remote regions.

CNT plays a pivotal role in meeting the islands' technological needs—crucial for its tourism sector. Yet improving

connectivity across the Galápagos is a significant challenge. With a permanent population of more than 33,700 spread across five islands, and over 200,000 tourists each year, Galápagos has a recognised need to balance conservation, tourism, and digital transformation. In this compact and geographically diverse province, laying fibre optic cables across the region has proven difficult and often unfeasible.

"Satellite technology becomes essential to connect our remote populations," says Lourdes Cuesta, General Manager at CNT Ecuador. "It allows us to have access to dispersed and remote places, and with the least ecological impact."

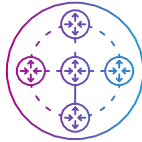
The SES and CNT partnership began in 2015 with the implementation of an O3b MEO infrastructure, with CNT seeing consistent annual growth and enhancement of services. With the imminent start of service of O3b mPOWER, CNT identified the opportunity for increased capacity and began work with SES to define a ground infrastructure on Santa Cruz Island.



Solutions provided:



Expanded connectivity
via O3b mPOWER



Enhanced backbone
capacity



O3b mPOWER-
compatible ground
infrastructure

“With O3b mPOWER, our aim is to continually increase the dedicated capacity we offer CNT and tailor it in flexible models.”

Mauricio Villamil,
Sales Director, SES

Leveraging O3b mPOWER, CNT will enhance connectivity in the Galápagos Islands by doubling bandwidth to 2.5 gigabits per second and ensuring low latency, flexibility, and reliability via a local fibre optic network.

“With O3b mPOWER, our aim is to continually increase the dedicated capacity we offer CNT and tailor it in flexible models,” says Mauricio Villamil, Sales Director at SES. “CNT will also benefit from dedicated low latency bandwidth that ensures a user experience comparable to terrestrial connectivity. This means we’re able to offer a product that stands out for its competitiveness, adaptability, and reliability.”

O3b mPOWER-compatible ground infrastructure offers flexible and dynamic bandwidth solutions that can easily adapt to changing needs while ensuring uninterrupted service. “Two of the top values of this solution are its scalability and easy installation,” says Jonathan Revelo, CTO of CNT. “If tomorrow we required an adjustment in bandwidth,

whether an increase or decrease, this technology can provide it for us.” Scalability during high demand has made telecommunications more dynamic, enabling capacity growth.

From tourism to telemedicine, connecting rural areas will improve life on the Galápagos islands and support Ecuador’s economic lifeblood. Tourism companies will be connected to enable online transactions on the islands; islanders will have access to hospital services 1,000 kilometres away; and students will have access to online education and video consultations with medical specialists around the world.

With a fibre optic network successfully installed on Santa Cruz Island and connected to dedicated trunk MEO capacity, residents and tourists will enjoy faster internet, proving that Galápagos can offer the same speed and services as mainland Ecuador. Looking ahead, CNT aspires to extend this connectivity model to remote areas like the Amazon during periods of low demand.



“Our efforts to close the digital divide would not have been possible without a dedicated team, including technicians, commercial staff, and government officials. We are immensely grateful to the SES team and look forward to a long-lasting partnership. The goal is to connect not only Galápagos, but also every remote area in Ecuador, improving quality of life, fostering economic development, and enhancing education. With the continued support and collaborative efforts of SES, we will see it done.”

Cnt

www.cnt.es

LOURDES CUESTA

General Manager at CNT Ecuador

For additional information
on this project, please visit
www.ses.com

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03b mPOWER

PERFORMANCE ABOVE ALL

