



## **Middle East Cable Break**

Cables providing telecommunications services between Europe, the Middle East and Asia were believed to be cut on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2008 at a location off the coast of Egypt near Alexandria. The cuts in the cables, provided by FLAG Telecom and SEA-ME-WE 4, severely reduced service in Egypt, Qatar, United Arab Emirates (UAE), Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, India, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka.

Referring to the failure of the cables, Keith Gilbert, Managing Director of Intercai Mondiale, commented that the cable breaks demonstrated the dependency of Arab countries on limited international capacity and the lack of physical diversity in international circuits. He said that this lack of diversity limits attempts at building an ICT services sector in Middle East countries. Keith Gilbert said that “the availability of diverse international links from competing operators is a major determinant for hosting companies in deciding on where to locate their hosting centres. The simultaneous failure of FLAG and SEA-ME-WE 4 demonstrates the need for Arab nations to introduce competition in international telecoms services over truly diverse physical infrastructure.”

For further information about Intercai Mondiale and the regulation of international circuits contact:

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