



Meta plans globe-spanning sub-sea internet cable



Meta has announced plans to build a 50,000km (31,000 mile) sub-sea cable across the world

The tech giant said Project Waterworth - connecting the US, India, South Africa, Brazil and other regions - will be the world's longest underwater cable project when completed. Meta, which owns Facebook, Instagram and WhatsApp, has sought to extend its presence in technology beyond social media, including in artificial intelligence (AI) and the infrastructure that supports it.

It said its new cable project would provide "industry-leading connectivity" to five major continents and help support its AI projects. The cable would be the longest to date that uses a 24 fibre-pair system, giving it a higher capacity, according to the firm. Sub-sea cables have become increasingly important as they provide the means to power a variety of digital services and transfer data worldwide at speed.

One regularly-cited statistic suggests more than 95% of the world's internet traffic is transferred through undersea cables. Telecommunications market research firm TeleGeography says there are currently more than 600 publicly-known sub-sea cable systems worldwide.