

'Mais Conectado' Project: EllaLink extension to Amazon States of Pará and Maranhão

Since June 2021, the EllaLink optical submarine cable delivers high-capacity, direct connectivity between Setubal in Portugal and Fortaleza in Brazil.

The EllaLink extension will soon also connect the Brazilian Amazon States of Pará and Maranhão, bringing connectivity and economic opportunities for the sustainable and inclusive development of the region. The cables will be able to transfer 12 Tbps (Pará) and 6.5 Tbps (Maranhão) of data per second, with the currently lowest latency on the market, to be used for digital connectivity and inclusion, and data economy development.

The EU supports the operation with EUR 12.3 million in grants. A technical assistance package will support upstream activities as legal and social studies, capacity-building, downstream investment preparation, and the strengthening of cybersecurity frameworks within the States. The grant also includes the purchase of smart sensors capable of collecting environmental and seismic data for climate monitoring.

Investment

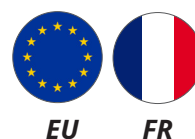
Total Investment: € 311,066,000

Investment Pará: € 133,750,000;
including € 67,000,000 IDB loan, € 40,000,000 AFD loan

Investment Maranhão: € 165,000,000;
including € 75,000,000 IDB loan € 57,000,000 AFD loan

EU grant: € 12,316,000

Team Europe



BRAZILIAN STATES

Pará
Maranhão

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Context

Aligned with the EU Global Gateway strategy and the EU-LAC Digital Alliance, the programme operationalises the digital pillar of the EU-LAC Global Gateway Investment Agenda, fostering inclusive and trusted digital economies, regional integration, and green transition. It complements key flagship initiatives such as BELLA II, EllaLink, and Amazonia+, acting as a territorial anchor for the EU-Brazil Digital Alliance. At the national level, it supports Brazil’s Estratégia Brasileira para a Transformação Digital, the Programa Norte Conectado, and the forthcoming Política Nacional de Cabos Submarinos de Internet, while contributing to Brazil’s Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement through enhanced climate monitoring and early-warning systems.

The initiative contributes directly to several Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure), SDG 13 (Climate Action), SDG 1 (No Poverty) and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).

Deliverables

The project will deploy two new submarine cable systems linking the States of Pará and Maranhão to national and international networks and modernise terrestrial backbones connecting remote municipalities and public institutions. Within this framework, the EU grant will finance:

- The reimbursable advance for the branching unit of the Pará submarine system, a strategic element securing the physical connection to future international routes;
- The integration of ASN SMART Node technology within the Pará and Maranhão cables, enabling the collection of climate and seismic data to inform research and public policy; and
- A comprehensive technical-assistance package covering cybersecurity strengthening and climate data governance in both states, implemented by Expertise France under delegated management.

Outcomes medium-term

1. Enhanced resilience of public digital services through improved security and data management;
2. Expanded scientific capacity for climate monitoring and adaptation planning;
3. Greater territorial inclusion of isolated communities through the extension of broadband coverage.

Outcomes long-term

Sustainable and inclusive growth in the Brazilian Amazon by supporting climate-resilient digital ecosystems.