



Press Release

Internet Connectivity for St Brandon set to become a reality: ICTA Designates Emtel Ltd as the Universal Service Provider

Port Louis, 28 August 2026: The Information and Communication Technologies Authority (ICTA) has designated Emtel Ltd as the Universal Service Provider and a contract has been signed for the provision of Internet services on Raphael Island, within the St Brandon Archipelago. Funded through the Universal Service Fund (USF), the project aims to provide digital connectivity to the island and support essential public and economic services.

The ceremony was held today at the Labourdonnais Waterfront Hotel, Port Louis, in the presence of Dr. the Hon. Avinash Ramtohul, Minister of Information Technology, Communication and Innovation; Mr. Tassarajen Pillay Chedumbrum and Mr. Atishay Sookun, Chairman and Executive Director respectively of the ICTA; Mr Bashir Currimjee and Mr Marcelo Aleman, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Emtel Ltd respectively, as well as key stakeholders.

Emtel Limited was designated following a bidding exercise for the “Procurement of Internet Services on Raphael Island within the St Brandon Archipelago.”

The project demonstrates how the USF contributes to extending digital connectivity to areas where conventional telecommunications infrastructure may be challenging to deploy, while supporting services that provide clear public and social benefits.

Bringing Digital Connectivity to St Brandon

Under the project, Emtel Ltd will provide an overall Internet capacity of 34 Mbps downlink and 12 Mbps uplink, delivered through Low Earth Orbit (LEO) satellite constellation.

This satellite service will connect the Coastal Surveillance Radar System (CSRS) of the National Coast Guard and provide dedicated Internet access to the National Coast Guard, Mauritius Meteorological Services (MMS) and Raphael Fishing Co Ltd. The connectivity will support maritime security, weather monitoring, communications and the day-to-day operations of key stakeholders on Raphael Island.

A Step Towards Greater Digital Inclusion

Access to Internet connectivity has become increasingly important: for communication, access to information, the delivery of services and the efficient operation of public and economic activities.

In his address, the Minister of Information Technology, Communication and Innovation, Dr. the Hon. Avinash Ramtohul, highlighted the importance of the project:

“Connecting St Brandon is about ensuring that no part of Mauritius is left behind in our digital transformation. This project will bring reliable connectivity to one of our most remote islands, strengthening maritime security, essential services and communications. Through the Universal Service Fund, we are turning digital inclusion into concrete action. Distance should never be a barrier to connectivity and opportunity.”

Also speaking at the ceremony, the Chairman of the ICTA, Mr. Tassarajen Pillay Chedumbrum, emphasised the role of the Universal Service Fund:

“The USF is an important instrument for supporting projects that address connectivity needs where there is a clear public and social benefit. The St Brandon project is a practical example of how the Fund can support the deployment of modern connectivity infrastructure in locations where conventional telecommunications infrastructure may be challenging to deploy. Beyond the technical infrastructure, this project represents a concrete step towards ensuring that reliable connectivity reaches our outer islands and supports the essential services and operations on the island.”

A Milestone for Universal Connectivity

The signing of the contract marks the next step towards the implementation of the project and the provision of Internet connectivity to St Brandon, supporting key services and operations on the island.

The project reflects the broader objective of ensuring that the benefits of digital connectivity are accessible across the Republic of Mauritius, while using innovative connectivity solutions to respond to the specific needs of remote locations.

Following the provision of Internet connectivity in Agalega, the establishment of free Wi-Fi zones across Mauritius and Rodrigues, and the implementation of Digital Service Centres in Post Offices, the St Brandon project represents another important step in advancing digital inclusion under the Universal Service Fund (USF). With a clear mandate under the USF to support initiatives that address connectivity gaps and promote digital inclusion, the ICTA will continue to implement further projects aimed at bridging the digital divide.

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