

Abstract

Submarine cables are not new, the very first transatlantic telegraphic cable was born in 1858 but since then the technologies considerably evolved and coaxial cables and optical fibers cables appeared in the decades following.

The technique used to install these lines has evolved as well, today cables are not simply laid on the sea bottom but a whole route is made to determine the best path for the cable, to avoid every risk of damages with the nature of the bottom but also fishing activities and ships' anchors.

By means of the results of the survey, we can define two different laying methods according to the sea depth in which the cable will be installed.

The first one consists in burying the line by means of a marine plow in shallow waters and the second one, which is faster allows to simply lay the cable on the seabed when it takes position in deep waters.

This kind of project has to answer the standards and criteria of coastal States as well as International Institutions which handle the installation and the protection of sea cables, but it also has to take into account its potential impact on marine environment, as well as the submarine cable's future once it's lifespan is over or when it becomes obsolete.