

## **CYTA - Black Sea Fibre Optic Cable System**

**Nicosia, Jan 22 (Cyprus News Agency)**

The Cyprus Telecommunications Authority (CYTA) has signed an agreement for a Black Sea Fibre Optic Cable System (BSFOCS), which will connect the area at a low cost.

The agreement was also signed by companies from Armenia (Armentel), Bulgaria (BTC), Greece (OTE), Slovenia (Telekom), the Ukraine (UKR), Russia (Westelcom), the United States (ATT), Germany (DTAG), Croatia (HT) and Japan (KDD). CYTA announced that the project involves high technology and upgrading facilities, which will cover present and future needs.

The cable will connect the Bulgarian port of Varna with Novorossiysk in Russia and Odessa, Ukraine. Fibre optic cables allow thousands of more calls and high-speed communications compared with conventional copper wires.

After an international contest, the construction of the project was awarded to a joint venture, comprising ASN ALCATEL and TYCO. The total cost of the project will reach 51 million dollars, of which CYTA will contribute 3.2 million dollars.

A huge demand is expected to arise for the services of the project by other telecommunications organisations, which will result in profit for the owners, hence CYTA as well.