



SCT tendered 50,000 public areas with Internet access

By Enrique Villarreal

26/05/2015



México Conectado with budgetary capacity: Lizárraga Galindo

SCT's target is to connect 100,000 public areas by the end of the year.

In early June, the Secretaría de Comunicaciones y Transportes (SCT) tendered the installation of 50,000 public areas with free Internet access as part of the "México Conectado" program that aims to have 100,000 connected locations by the end of the year.

Javier Lizárraga Galindo, head of this SCT program, assured that, because this project offers basic services to the population, the required funding has already been secured and the program will not be affected by the elections taking place in the country. "It is progressing according to the original plans," he explained to Con\$umoCuidado.

He stated that the Shared Network project; the Backbone Network that will be managed by Telecom; México Conectado; the transition to Digital Terrestrial Television (DTTV) and the Satellite Project are programs through which the federal government seeks to overcome the country's digital divide.

The official stated that, to date, 65,000 public locations are in operation, 13,000 are currently being equipped and another 50,000 will be put to tender to meet the annual goal of 100,000.

He emphasised that, even though the plan is to provide a total of 250 locations with free Internet access nationwide by 2018, the implementation of México Conectado has given priority to entities and locations where there is a large technology gap, such as Guerrero, Oaxca, Chiapas.

The connectivity location in public areas is defined by establishing Coordination Meetings in each State (15 so far), comprised of education and health authorities and Sedesol, who ultimately determine where to locate the WiFi networks and services.

“We try to deploy the project based on the needs of the state, but above all, on the users' needs who are the focal point and target group.”

Reform brings change to the rules, leading to a price decrease for some telecommunication services, but coverage still needs to be implemented to trigger two factors: the population will start to connect more thereby increasing the penetration of Information Technology.

He added that the objective is to carry out a joint public-private work where the government creates the conditions to generate investments and the companies can then reduce costs.

He estimated that the number of final beneficiaries has yet to be determined because the connectivity locations are very diverse. To date, out of the 65,000 equipped, there are 1,300 locations of high-capacity coverage, with 1,400 bits per second connections; we will have to assess how many will be connected.

Original Article: <http://consumocuidado.com.mx/licitara-sct-50-mil-sitios-publicos-con-acceso-a-internet/>