

Belize Telecommunications Following the purchase of an additional 24 percent ownership the Carlisle Group now owns 51 percent of Belize Telecommunications Limited (BTL), which operates under an exclusive license covering both national and international telecommunication services in Belize. BTL, Belize's largest company, has constructed a state-of-the-art countrywide network utilizing both fiber-optic and copper technologies, as well as wireless and cellular systems.

BTL's focus continues to be on investments to take communications to the next level of technology, providing customers with greater efficiencies and preparing them for the rapidly changing global economy. For the year, BTL's revenues were up 15 percent and net earnings rose 8 percent.

An Expanding Network BTL's fiber network was extended during the year, giving customers from Belize City all the way to the western border of Belize high-speed data transmission and multimedia services. Towards the end of 2001 BTL will be landing ARCOS, the Caribbean and Central American regional cable system, in Belize, enabling fiber-optic access to the US and the rest of the region.

Other Highlights In December 2000, BTL launched its prepaid cellular service. BTL also entered into an alliance with IPASS, one of the largest internet roaming providers. Using their local BTL account, our customers now have easy access to the internet and are able to download their e-mails from over 150 countries and 5,000 access points worldwide. Other highlights include the successful marketing of a prepaid calling card service, the expansion of BTL's internet bandwidth with provision for voice-over internet protocol service, and the cementing of BTL's position as a data service provider by our securing the largest wide area network contract with the Government of Belize.

Through new services and expanded access, we are giving our customers the latest tools for wireless, cellular and internet communication.

Our services include:

- Standard and prepaid cellular phone service
- High-speed data transmission
- Internet/e-mail services
- Multimedia services

A new cellular service

BTL's mobile cellular service was expanded over the past year and our customers now experience more clarity and continuous coverage as a result of the installation of new cell sites. In line with the expansion of our cellular network, we launched a prepaid cellular service in December 2000, that had attracted 9,658 customers by the end of the fiscal year.

