

# Business Today



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## More Internet Cable incidents likely to happen in Mediterranean

Charlot Zahra

An article in this week's edition of the prestigious scientific magazine "New Scientist" has warned that more submarine cable breaks were in store for this year under the Mediterranean Sea.

"Repairs to damage caused in the most recent incident, in December, were completed last week and normal service finally restored. But more incidents are likely in what can arguably be called the internet's Achilles' heel," the magazine said in a report penned by Colin Barras.

There are many data cables spanning across the oceans of the world, however there were only three across the Mediterranean Sea, creating "a tight bottleneck that links Europe, North Africa and Asia".

In a catalogue of mishaps, on 30 January 2008, two of the

three cables broke in the eastern Mediterranean next to the Egyptian town of Alexandria.

"With only one cable still connecting Europe and the Middle East, the volume of voice and internet data between India and Europe plummeted by 75 per cent," the New Scientist report explained.

The cables were fully repaired within a few weeks, however less than a year later, on 19 December, two of the three cables were damaged again and the third one was seriously damaged between Sicily and Tunisia.

Repairs were reportedly set back when one of the main cables was broken again nearby a few days later.

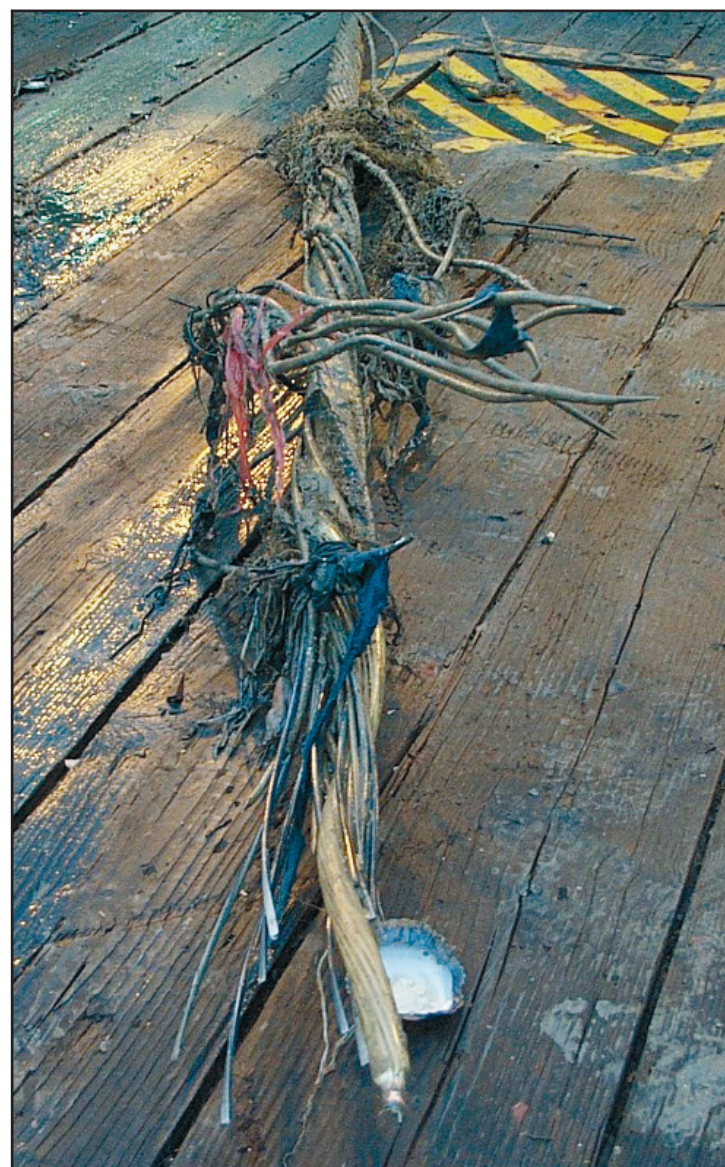
The cause of the first cut was still unknown. "Although a stray anchor from busy shipping connecting to the nearby Suez Canal was blamed, Egyptian authorities remain

adamant that video footage shows no sign of ships at the time of the breaks.

"Ships' anchors can certainly break cables, and will continue to threaten those under the Mediterranean. And the likely cause of the second round of breaks - one or more underwater landslides caused by earthquakes - is not going away, either," the New Scientist article reported.

Roger Musson from British Geological Survey was quoted as saying: "In the past, (such) underwater landslides have been associated with cable breaks.

However, he said the Mediterranean was "an active boundary between tectonic plates, making it prone to quakes. You do get major earthquakes in the area - the largest Greek earthquakes go up to around magnitude 8.0," he told "The New Scientist". ▶ page 3



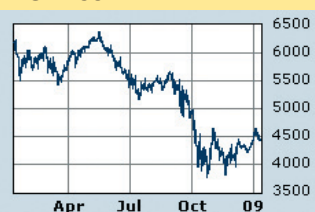
### World Business Highlights

**Bernanke Says Stimulus May Be Inadequate, Signals Asset Buying, Guarantees** Federal Reserve Chairman Ben S. Bernanke warned that a fiscal stimulus won't be enough to spur an economic recovery and that the government may need to buy or guarantee banks' tainted assets to revive growth.

**Barclays Plans to Eliminate 2,100 Jobs at Investment Bank, Wealth Units** Barclays Plc, the fourth-largest U.K. bank, plans to cut about 2,100 jobs at its investment bank, fund management and private banking units.

**Deutsche Post May Take 10% Deutsche Bank Stake Under Revised Postbank Deal** Deutsche Post AG may take a stake of as much as 10 percent in Deutsche Bank AG as part of a revised deal to sell its Deutsche Postbank AG unit to Germany's biggest bank, a person with knowledge of the discussions said.

#### FTSE 100



### MIDI €30m bond issue oversubscribed

MIDI plc's €30 million bond issue yesterday closed applications just 90 minutes after opening, with €12 million collected at the pre-placement stage before applications opened to the general public.

An over-allotment option for a further €10 million will now bring the bond issue up to €40m.

Funds raised through this bond issue will be used for the Tigné Point development in Sliema.

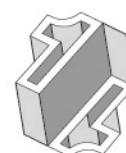
MIDI chairman Albert Mizzi said

demand for the bonds had been "overwhelming and even exceptional at the pre-placement stage," despite negative international news weakening investor confidence.

"We are delighted and thank all those who showed confidence in MIDI plc, and those who have helped to make this bond issue such a huge success, particularly the financial intermediaries whose widespread participation was a key factor."

#### Markets

Security	Closing Prices in Euro		% Change from previous wk
	Tue 06-Jan-09	Tue 13-Jan-09	
Bank of Valletta p.l.c.	3.600	3.000	-16.667%
HSBC Bank Malta p.l.c.	2.699	2.750	1.890%
Lombard Bank p.l.c.	3.000	3.000	0.000%
Middlesea Insurance p.l.c.	2.550	2.550	0.000%
Simonds Farsons Cisk p.l.c.	1.900	1.900	0.000%
GO p.l.c.	1.751	1.760	0.514%
IHI p.l.c.	0.895	0.870	-2.793%
Plaza Centres p.l.c.	1.730	1.730	0.000%
FIMBank p.l.c. (US\$)	\$1.450	\$1.450	0.000%
Malta International Airport p.l.c.	2.497	2.490	-0.280%
GlobalCapital p.l.c.	1.991	1.991	0.000%
Datatrak Holdings p.l.c.	0.190	0.190	0.000%
San Tumas Shareholdings p.l.c.	3.100	3.100	0.000%
Medserv p.l.c.	3.997	3.997	0.000%
Grand Harbour Marina p.l.c.	1.980	1.980	0.000%
6pm Holdings p.l.c. (GBP)	£0.700	£0.700	0.000%
Crimsonwing p.l.c.	0.497	0.497	0.000%
MaltaPost p.l.c.	0.817	0.817	0.000%
RS2 Software p.l.c.	0.799	0.799	0.000%



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