

The Virgin Islands Consortium

AT&T Says It Has Invested More Than \$15 Million Between 2016-2018 In Its USVI Wireless Network

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AT&T said this week that it has invested more than \$15 million in its U.S. Virgin Islands wireless network between the years 2016-2018. "These investments boost reliability, coverage, speed and overall performance for residents and businesses," the communications behemoth said in a release. "We've also improved critical services that support Public Safety and first responders using the FirstNet communications platform."

Lisa Hamilton, USVI Hotel and Tourism Association president, said a solid wireless network is an indelible part of attracting investment to the territory. "For our islands to continue to thrive and attract new jobs and innovation, sustained investment by the private sector is crucial. By continuing to build state-of-the-art infrastructure throughout

the territory, AT&T is making business growth possible and assuring that our residents and visitors have the tools to stay connected and entertained," she said.

AT&T said it made numerous wireless network upgrades in the U.S. Virgin Islands in 2018. The firm said it added more capacity and bandwidth to several cell sites to increase speeds and boost performance. The company also recovered cell sites damaged during the 2017 hurricane season. The areas benefiting from these upgrades include: Blue Mountain, Carambola and Mt. Pleasant on St. Croix; St. John West and Sussanaberg on St. John; and Benner Hill, Caren Hill, Emerald Hill, Nana Hill, Red Hook, Smith Bay and Wintberg on St. Thomas, AT&T said.

"We're always looking for new opportunities to enhance coverage for our customers and FirstNet subscribers," said Alexandra Verdiales Costa, AT&T regional vice president. "This investment will also pave the path to 5G mobile services in the years ahead."

The AT&T LTE network covers more than 400 million people in North America. By building out its 4G LTE network, the firm said it's boosting network speeds and capacity as it continues to expand the availability of its network and upgrade the technology being used.

AT&T's wireless network covers more than 99 percent of all Americans and has become one of the fastest wireless network in the nation, according to the first quarter 2019 results from tests taken with Speedtest ® and analyzed by Ookla®. 2