

Geopolitical instability increases the need for a new Caribbean connectivity hub.

"Global trade is being fundamentally reshaped by political and economic instability, forcing a critical reassessment of data storage, processing, and protection strategies. Compounding this, cyber threats are escalating dramatically, with Latin America and the Caribbean witnessing a disturbing surge in attacks, averaging a 25% annual increase over the past decade. This reality underscores the critical importance of digital infrastructure as a foundation for resilience and sovereignty. While the region faces heightened vulnerability, Curaçao, with its stable legal framework, and strategic geographic location, is uniquely positioned to capitalize on this need and emerge as a pivotal Caribbean connectivity hub."



Lee Singh
Director of Market Development

Connectivity is a vital prerequisite for attracting investments

As businesses navigate an increasingly digital and interconnected world, reliable connectivity is non-negotiable for site selection and investment. They require locations with stable, redundant infrastructure to guarantee uninterrupted operations. Proximity to major markets, access to renewable energy, and political stability are also essential. Curaçao, with its strategic location connecting Latin America, North America, and Europe, presents a strong and advantageous proposition.

Curaçao: The Caribbean's Secure and Strategic Connectivity Gateway

Its geographical and political positioning makes Curaçao an attractive option for connectivity investments. Unlike many other Caribbean nations, it sits safely outside the hurricane belt, providing a level of physical security, that is crucial for uninterrupted digital operations. As an autonomous country within the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Curaçao benefits from a stable political environment, a trusted legal framework, and strong regulatory alignment with European standards.

International companies can also rely on trade and tax agreements, such as the Tax arrangement with the Netherlands to prevent double taxation or Partial Scope Trade Agreements with Surinam and Trinidad and Tobago to improve investment opportunities and limit trade barriers. This makes it beneficial for companies to invest in Curaçao. Moreover, with its constant sunshine and steady winds, Curaçao has huge potential for renewable energy generation.

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These factors bolster business confidence and establish Curaçao as a reliable, geopolitically neutral hub for governments and organizations seeking secure data infrastructure. With five subsea cable connections and a burgeoning digital economy, Curaçao provides a compelling alternative for companies prioritizing resilience, compliance, and long-term operational stability within the Caribbean.

Insights from Established Connectivity Hubs

While Curaçao has some competitive advantages compared to other nations in the Caribbean, it can still learn from other regions that have successfully positioned themselves as strategic connectivity hubs. Trinidad and Tobago, for instance, has strengthened its digital infrastructure through open market competition and significant investment in redundancy. However, its greatest asset is strong government backing for digital transformation. By actively promoting technology, digital literacy and infrastructure development, Trinidad ensures long-term growth in the sector.

Extending beyond the Caribbean, global leaders like Singapore and Amsterdam have leveraged their geographic positioning, regulatory stability, and high-speed connectivity to become major data transit hubs. A key factor in their success is proactive government involvement, robust investment in cybersecurity and a clear commitment to fostering digital growth. For Curaçao, these examples highlight the need for continued investment in subsea connectivity, strong regulatory alignment with international standards and a greater emphasis on digital education. By positioning itself as a trusted jurisdiction for data sovereignty and ensuring a future-ready workforce, Curaçao can solidify its role as a leading connectivity hub in the region.

Importance of cybersecurity

Cybersecurity is a critical priority for governments and organizations. Last year, the Central Bank of Curaçao and Sint Maarten identified cyber attacks as one of the biggest threats in the Caribbean, highlighting the severe financial damage already inflicted. These attacks can disrupt economies, destabilize governments, and compromise critical infrastructure. Moreover, Latin America and the Caribbean have seen a sharp rise in cyber incidents, with financial institutions, government agencies, and telecommunications providers as primary targets.

For Curaçao, ensuring a strong cybersecurity framework is essential not only for protecting local businesses but also for maintaining its credibility as a trusted connectivity hub. With its legal ties to the Netherlands and alignment with European cybersecurity standards, Curaçao has the opportunity to position itself as a secure and compliant jurisdiction for data sovereignty. Achieving this requires continuous investment in cybersecurity infrastructure, workforce training and public-private collaboration to mitigate emerging threats.

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The future of connectivity in the Caribbean

Right now, the Caribbean region stands at a pivotal moment in its digital transformation. As global demand for secure, resilient and geopolitically neutral connectivity grows, the region has the opportunity to position itself as a key player in the global digital economy. Curaçao, with its strategic location, political stability and expanding connectivity infrastructure, is well-positioned to lead this transformation. By fostering a digitally skilled workforce, aligning with global data protection standards and ensuring an energy-efficient, redundant digital infrastructure, Curaçao - and in turn the Caribbean - can attract international businesses seeking a stable and secure connectivity hub.

Policy and Investment Enablers

To solidify its position, Curaçao must:

- Invest in additional subsea cable systems and local internet exchange points (IXPs)
- Strengthen public-private collaboration on cybersecurity
- Promote digital education and workforce training
- Offer investment incentives tied to renewable energy and digital infrastructure
- Align national policies with CARICOM, CTU, and global data protection standards (e.g., GDPR)

Positioning Curaçao as a Digital Gateway

The Caribbean is at a turning point. As demand for secure and resilient connectivity grows globally, Curaçao has a unique opportunity to lead. By prioritizing digital infrastructure, regulatory alignment, cybersecurity, and talent development, it can serve not only local but regional and international needs. Now is the time to invest in the future of Caribbean digital sovereignty.

Key Recommendations

- Accelerate investments in redundant subsea and terrestrial connectivity
- Establish a national cybersecurity task force with public-private input
- Create a regulatory sandbox for digital infrastructure investments
- Promote Curaçao as a GDPR-aligned jurisdiction for data hosting
- Collaborate with CARICOM and CTU for regional digital harmonization
- Launch digital upskilling programs for youth and professionals