

Nicaragua unveils canal route to rival Panama

The government of Nicaragua and the Hong Kong-based HKND Group have unveiled the route of a proposed \$40 billion inter-ocean canal that would compete with the Panama Canal



CANALS COMPARED	Panama Canal (expanded)	Nicaragua Canal
Length	77km	278km
Completion	2016	2019-20
Cost	\$5.25bn*	\$40bn
Maximum ship size	120,000 tonnes	250,000 tonnes
New York to San Francisco	9,500km	8,700km (1 day less)

Nicaragua government hopes canal will lift over 400,000 people out of poverty, but environmental experts warn of profound ecological damage

