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INDIGO COMPLETES INSTALLATION OF NEW SUBSEA CABLE SYSTEM

A consortium comprising Telstra, AARNet, Google, Indosat Ooredoo, Singtel and SubPartners has completed a milestone in the INDIGO subsea cable construction with the installations of the INDIGO West and INDIGO Central cables completed as scheduled.

Telstra's Head of International Oliver Camplin-Warner says the telco's vast subsea network is a key part of the company's international growth strategy and it will continue to invest in additional capacity to meet the increasing demand for data and maintain "network leadership in the Asia-Pacific region."

"The INDIGO West cable will connect to Telstra's extensive terrestrial network to provide onward connectivity around Australia. Once complete, the cable system will strengthen links between Australia and fast-growing South East Asian markets by providing faster speeds and dramatically improved reliability," Camplin-Warner said.

The milestone follows an announcement on 29 October last year that the consortium had landed the 4,600km Perth to Sydney INDIGO Central cable in Sydney, just six weeks after the 4,600km Singapore to Perth INDIGO West cable was successfully landed at Floreat Beach in Perth.

Commissioning of the submarine cable system has now begun, with the INDIGO cable system on schedule and on-track to be ready for service before mid-2019.

The consortium says the INDIGO cable system will bolster connections between Australia and the dynamic economies of Southeast Asia, providing lower latency and enhanced reliability. Using today's coherent optical technology, the cable's two-fibre pairs will be able to support up to 36 terabits per second, the equivalent of simultaneously streaming millions of movies a second.

"This is an exciting time for AARNet. INDIGO is the first in a number of significant investments for research and education in Australia. INDIGO will provide the underpinning critical infrastructure to meet the future growth in collaborative research and transnational education between Australia and our important Asian partners," said AARNet's CEO Chris Hancock.

The cable system will utilise new spectrum sharing technology so each consortium member will have the ability to independently take advantage of technology advancements for future upgrades and capacity increases on demand.

Singtel vice president, carrier services, group enterprise, Ooi Seng Keat said: "The completion of the INDIGO cable system heralds a new era of high speed communications between the growing economies of Southeast Asia and Australia. This new data superhighway will complement our existing global links to Asia, US, Europe, Australia and the Middle East, allowing Singtel and Optus to meet the growing demand for bandwidth-intensive applications which is expected to quadruple by 2025.

"Our investments in new subsea cable systems like INDIGO will boost our network diversity and resilience, further reinforcing our position as a leading provider of international connectivity and data services."

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Drew Kelton, Chief Executive Officer, Superloop on behalf of SubPartners, said: "The demand for INDIGO is now apparent, with Superloop already signing on NextDC for access to INDIGO for both of its Perth (P1 and P2) and Sydney (S1 and S2) data centres. Superloop is on a journey to interconnect and virtualise businesses across the Asia Pacific region, and the go-live of INDIGO will accelerate that plan significantly."

Dejan Kastelic, Chief Technology and Information Officer Indosat Ooredoo said: "The completion of INDIGO submarine cable is part of our ambitious three-year program to transform our network to achieve best customer experience. When it is in service it will further diversify our international connections across Australia and fast-growing South East Asian market, serving ever-increasing demand for data traffic and expanding opportunities for retail consumers and corporate services.

"We are excited with the significant progress of the INDIGO deployment. This strategic partnership will provide Indonesia with wider connection access across Australia and the fast-growing South East Asian market," said President Director and CEO of Indosat Ooredoo, Joy Wahjudi.

"We are looking forward to Indosat Ooredoo landing the INDIGO cable in Jakarta, targeting both business and retail consumer segments to be able to enjoy global access, increase their business performance and also increase their quality of life through world-class data connectivity and internet access."
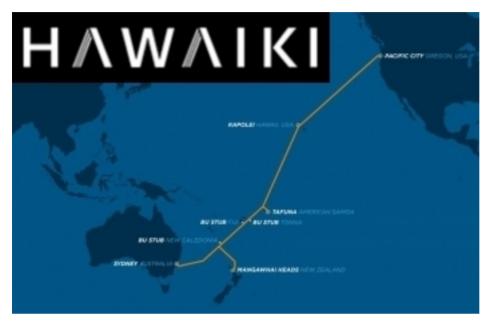
Peter Dinham

HAWAIKI, PACKETFABRIC SIGN DEAL TO EXTEND CONNECTIVITY

Auckland-based Hawaiki Submarine Cable has signed an agreement with PacketFabric, to provision secure, low-latency trans-Pacific capacity on Hawaiki's submarine cable system and extend the reach of PacketFabric's SDN platform in the Asia-Pacific region.

The deal means that Hawaiki can now reach more than 150 locations on PacketFabric's network.

The Hawaiki cable **commenced** commercial operations for its 15,000km fibre optic deep-sea cable linking Australia, New Zealand, the Pacific and United States on 20 July last year.

The cable system provides 43 terabits of new capacity and allows for greater connectivity, diversity and price competition in the market.

"PacketFabric is a natural partner for Hawaiki and gives us the ability to extend our capacity services to everywhere and everyone PacketFabric reaches," said Hawaiki chief executive Remi Galasso.

"This means new customers can quickly and easily connect to the Hawaiki cable system, and enjoy greater capacity and diversity across the Pacific."

PacketFabric president and chief operating officer Chad Milam said: "Partnering with Hawaiki allows us to extend our disruptive software-defined networking platform into the fast-growing markets of the Asia-Pacific region, including the creation of new POPs in Sydney and Auckland.

"Not only can PacketFabric offer customers transpacific capacity, but also the newest and fastest route to Australia and New Zealand through Hawaiki, from any location on PacketFabric's private and secure network."

Sam Varghese

ALP SAYS NO EVIDENCE FOR SWITKOWSKI CLAIMS ON NBN SALE VALUE

The Australian Labor Party has labelled valuation claims of the national broadband network made by NBN Co chairman Ziggy Switkowski as bizarre and said no evidence has been produced to back up the price tag he has put on the company.

Labor also accused the government of damaging the long-term economics of the national broadband network by its decision to opt for a multi-technology mix rather than the fibre for a majority of premises as in the original plan.

Switkowski: " $50 billion for the value of this company in the early 2020s.”

Labor Shadow Communications Minister Michelle Rowland and Shadow Finance Minister Jim Chalmers said in a joint statement that even after 92 days of NBN Co chairman Ziggy Switkowski claiming that the network could still fetch a price of $50 billion once it is fully rolled out in 2020, no **evidence** had been produced to back his claim.

Switkowski **made the claim** during a Senate Estimates hearing on 24 October 2018, adding that in his personal opinion, a write-down of the network was not needed. "I could certainly generate — and do generate — figures around $50 billion for the value of this company in the early 2020s," he **said**.

Rowland and Chalmers said the NBN Co had confirmed it had "not received advice from any advisory firm, investment bank, market analyst, or suitably qualified professional, to support the chairman's claims".

Nine days before Switkowski's assertion, Rowland had **said** Labor was keeping open the option of writing down the value of the NBN.

And in July 2018, the ratings agency Standard & Poor's **said** the NBN would not return a profit from the billions invested in the project, adding that the NBN Co's business model had led to telcos investing heavily in mobile services to avoid paying the company's inflated prices.

S&P has **also pointed out** that the advent of 5G networks will not provide any kind of salvation for telecommunications providers who are desperate for some way of fighting back against the unreasonably high prices charged by NBN Co.

Rowland and Chalmers said: "Questions on notice from Labor Senators afforded NBN Co the opportunity to produce analysis or advice to support the claim, but the Senate tellingly received a heavily delayed response with no attempt to substantiate the claim.

"Given the significant difference of opinion with reputable analysts, the chairman either needs to support his statement with evidence or correct the public record.

"No amount of misleading spin can hide... the fact [that] the flawed decision to use copper and HFC has severely damaged the long-term economics of the NBN and destroyed taxpayer value."

When construction of the NBN was begun in 2009, Labor was in power and it envisaged fibre being rolled out to the premises for 93% of the populace, with the remaining 7% to be supplied with connectivity through either wireless or satellite.

The rollout became a political issue when the Coalition Government that took power in 2013 decided to change the technology of the network to what it called a multi-technology mix.

The MTM includes fibre-to-the-node, HFC cable, satellite, and wireless, apart from fibre-to-the-premises which is being provided only to new dwellings.

As the MTM plan and the connections provided have come under increasing criticism, fibre-to-the-distribution-point, which considerably reduces the copper lead-in to premises — what the network builder NBN Co calls fibre-to-the-curb — has been introduced as well.

The rollout of the NBN is scheduled to be completed in 2020.

Sam Varghese

OFFICE 365 MAIL DOWN IN EUROPE FOR MORE THAN A DAY

Microsoft Office 365 and Microsoft 365 users in Europe have been unable to access their mailboxes for more than a day, with a borked domain controller apparently the reason.

Surprisingly, the Microsoft Office 365 status website **said** there were no known issues.

But the Twitter account for Microsoft 365 **said** it had been determined that a subset of the domain controller infrastructure had become unresponsive.

As a result, user connections were timing out.

Microsoft 365 Status
@MSFT365Status

We've determined that a subset of Domain Controller infrastructure is unresponsive, resulting in user connection time outs. We're applying steps to mitigate the issue. More details can be found in the admin center published under EX172491.

♡ 96   12:54 AM - Jan 25, 2019

💬 245 people are talking about this

In November last year, Microsoft **had issues** with the Office 365 service.

Office 365 customers complained they were unable to sign in to their accounts.

A number of cloud services offered by the Redmond software giant use the MFA offered by Azure Active Directory to authenticate by default.

Two days before that, users of the company's Exchange Online service were **unable to access their email** for more than 12 hours.

And a week prior, Microsoft cloud customers using multi-factor authentication found themselves **locked out** of their accounts.

Sam Varghese

BIGCOMMERCE DITCHES LEGACY IBM PLATFORM FOR GOOGLE CLOUD

Ecommerce vendor BigCommerce has ditched its existing IBM platform and completed the migration of its hosting infrastructure to Google Cloud.

BigCommerce, which was previously using the IBM Softlayer cloud service, says the migration enables more than 60,000 merchants powering online sales to benefit from the industry's "fastest, most flexible and secure cloud platform.

In three months, BigCommerce says it has moved the majority of its customer base of more than 60,000 merchants to Google Cloud Platform while maintaining better than 99.99% uptime.

According to BigCommerce, through the remainder of 2018, its merchants experienced 100 percent uptime on the new hosting infrastructure – "an important accomplishment during the busiest time of the year for retailers".

"BigCommerce has processed more than $21 billion in sales and now supports merchants in more than 120 countries around the world," said Brian Dhatt, CTO for BigCommerce.

"As our merchants continue to grow on the platform, we take pride in delivering world-class performance and a scalable hosting solution that works as hard as they do."

"Throughout our sustained growth, BigCommerce has always provided merchants a secure platform with near-perfect uptime and industry-leading performance.

"The decision to move to Google Cloud further extends our commitment to reliability and scalability, backed by Google Cloud's reputation in security, performance and innovation."

As a component of the migration, BigCommerce says it will leverage Google Cloud's scalable infrastructure and global footprint, which includes 18 cloud regions and 134 points of presence around the world.

"This means that BigCommerce traffic enters the Google network much closer to the individual shopper, providing a faster and more reliable connection between merchants and their customers," the company notes.

BigCommerce expects to complete the full migration by next month.

Peter Dinham