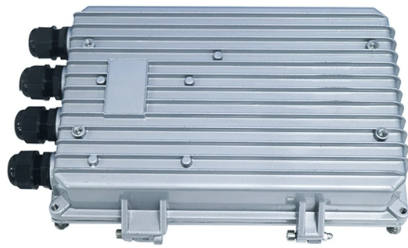


New Zealand installs fiber optic cable at border



Overview

Another subsea data cable coming for New Zealand; So what does it A new submarine data cable is planned for New Zealand, to be laid across the Tasman landi.

Key Takeaways

New Zealand is expanding its international connectivity with new submarine fiber optic cables, including Te Waipounamu and Google's Honomoana, enhancing digital resilience and data capacity.Key Projects



Te Waipounamu Cable The Te Waipounamu submarine cable system will link Invercargill, New Zealand, to Sydney and Melbourne, Australia, spanning approximately 3,000 km. It consists of 16 fiber pairs, with 4 pairs connecting Invercargill to Australia at a total capacity of 120 Tbps and 12 pairs between Sydney and Melbourne at 35 Tbps per pair. The cable is part of the broader Tasman Ring Network, which will also connect Auckland, New Plymouth, and Greymouth to Australia, improving redundancy and reducing latency to around 25 milliseconds between New Zealand and Australia. The project is led by Intelia New Zealand and involves Datagrid for route planning and marine surveys, with an estimated cost of NZD 160 million funded through equity, debt, and capacity contracts . Google's Honomoana Cable Google is extending its Honomoana cable, originally connecting the United States and Australia, to North Auckland. This will provide the first direct connection between Auckland and Melbourne, strengthening New Zealand's digital resilience and international connectivity. The project is expected to be completed early next year and is part of Google's broader investment in AI and digital infrastructure in New Zealand .

Other Developments

- Vodafone, Spark, and Telstra are collaborating on a new submarine cable between Raglan, New Zealand, and Sydney, involving plough burial and post-lay inspection .
 - Chorus and Datagrid initially planned a South Island cable, but Chorus withdrew; Datagrid continues with the Tasman Ring Network to support data centers in Invercargill .
 - New Zealand's existing network includes Southern Cross, Southern Cross Next, Hawaiki, Tasman Global Access, and Aqualink, providing redundancy and resilience against natural or accidental disruptions .
- Strategic Significance**

These new cables reduce reliance on older networks, increase international bandwidth, and improve latency for cloud services and data-intensive applications. They also enhance digital resilience, ensuring connectivity even if one or more cables are disrupted. The projects support the growth of data centers in cooler South Island locations, leveraging energy efficiency and regional development .

Technical and Environmental Considerations

Cable routes are carefully surveyed to avoid hazards such as coastal erosion, sediment, and seismic activity. Post-lay inspections and burial ensure long-term protection and minimal environmental impact. The projects also consider security and redundancy, with multiple landing points and fiber pairs to maintain connectivity in case of damage . These initiatives collectively position New Zealand as a more robust and connected hub in the Pacific, supporting both domestic and international digital infrastructure.

Article Content

Submarine cabling

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New Zealand

The Southern Cross Cable Network (SCCN) made the first international submarine connection in New Zealand, followed by Tasman

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Submarine cabling

Tasman Global Access (TGA) Fibre Optic Cable We received a pre-activity notification from Vodafone to lay a new submarine cable

Fibre Optic Cables

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List of terrestrial fibre optic cable projects in Africa

This is a list of terrestrial fibre optic cable projects in Africa. While submarine communications cables are used to connect countries

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This document is for preliminary research. Verify specifications against current standards, product documentation and project requirements.

