

AVAROA CABLE LIMITED PRESS RELEASE:

Final for Immediate Release



AVAROA CABLE LTD OFFICIALLY OPENS TWO CABLE LANDING STATIONS

COOK ISLANDS, 20 July 2022 - Avaroa Cable Ltd (ACL) has celebrated the official opening of its cable landing stations in Aitutaki on 11 July, following the successful opening of the Rarotonga facilities on 11 May 2022. The new facilities represent years of planning, hard work and dedication from the ACL team to ensure that the Manatua Cable project was successfully implemented. The opening events were also an opportunity to thank key stakeholders, including landowners and the Cook Islands donor funding partners, the Asian Development Bank and the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade. The Hon. Patrick Arioka, Minister of Telecommunications, opened the Rarotonga buildings, and the Aitutaki cable landing station was opened by Mike Henry, Chairman of the Cook Islands Investment Corporation.

Each of the Manatua Consortium parties in French Polynesia, the Cook Islands, Niue and Samoa were responsible for constructing their own cable landing stations. In the case of ACL, this has meant a station each in Rarotonga and Aitutaki. The buildings have been designed to house the equipment required to receive the cable, along with plant and stand-by generator systems to maintain operations during power outages. The Rarotonga station includes ACL's network operations centre and a colocation data centre space where businesses can rent secured space in a monitored environment to store their servers and other hardware.

Honourable Patrick Arioka, Minister of Telecommunications, said:

“Avaroa Cable Ltd has made a significant achievement in undertaking this complex project and delivering it on time and within budget. The technologically sophisticated new facilities in Rarotonga and Aitutaki are evidence of a long-term government initiative to transform the telecommunications market, and our people should be proud of this investment in our country. We encourage all licensed internet service providers to make the most of this wonderful investment and use the cable to pass along cheaper, faster and more reliable services to the Cook Islands people.”

Mike Schwarz, CEO of Avaroa Cable Ltd, said:

“The entire ACL team has worked very hard to complete the state-of-the-art cable landing facilities in Rarotonga and Aitutaki. Through diligent operations and ongoing maintenance activities, our local engineering team has ensured that there has been no down time since the Manatua cable began service in July 2020. While the Covid-19 pandemic has caused challenges, competition is coming, and ACL will continue to work with the existing internet service providers and any new entrants to make

sure that the benefits of this fantastic cable system get passed along to the people of the Cook Islands.”

END

See following pages for photos and background information.

Note: high resolution JPEG files of the photos below are included as attachments

Photo 1 of 2:



Left to right: ACL Board Chair Tatiana Burn, NZ High Commissioner to the Cook Islands Tui Dewes, Honourable Patrick Arioka – Minister of Telecommunications, and ADB Senior Country Officer Lavinia Tama at the cable landing station opening in Aroa, Rarotonga, May 2022

Photo 2 of 2:



Left to right: Cook Islands Investment Corporation (CIIC) CEO Allan Jensen, ACL Board Directors Martha Henry, Miimetua Nimerota, Richard Williams, ACL Board Chair Tatiana Burn, CIIC Board Chair Mike Henry at the cable landing station in Aitutaki, July 2022

Further information

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About Avaroa Cable Ltd

ACL is an international fibre operator providing wholesale connectivity services in the Cook Islands. ACL is a state-owned enterprise (SOE) and manages the Cook Islands involvement in the Manatua Cable project and its commercialisation as an international and domestic wholesale operator. ACL has been established, and the independent board which oversees it is appointed by, the Cook Islands Investment Corporation, which is the government body responsible for SOEs. ACL's board is chaired by Tatiana Burn. Funding has been provided by the Cook Islands Government, the New Zealand Aid Programme and the Asian Development Bank. (www.avaroacable.com)

About the Cook Islands

The Cook Islands is an independent democracy comprising 15 islands in the south Pacific of c.17,500 people operating in free association with New Zealand.

About the Manatua – One Polynesia Cable

The Manatua cable is a 3600km long submarine telecommunications cable connecting Samoa, Niue, Rarotonga, Aitutaki, Tahiti and Bora. The cable is capable of operating at up to 10 Terabits per second (= 10,000,000 megabits per second) using state-of-the-art fibre optic technology, enough speed to download 300 high definition movies every single second.

About the Manatua Cable Consortium

The ground-breaking Manatua cable consortium was formed following the signing of an International Treaty in November 2018 between the governments of the Cook Islands, Niue, Samoa and French Polynesia. The purpose of the consortium is to build and operate the Manatua cable. The consortium comprises Avaroa Cable Ltd (for the Cook Islands), Niue Telecom, the Samoa Submarine Cable Company and Office de Poste et Telecommunications (for French Polynesia). It is the first consortium of its type anywhere in the Pacific.