Alcatel Submarine Networks deploys a new cable in the Coral Sea, connecting Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands to Australia.

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Alcatel Submarine Networks (ASN) is deploying a new subsea system for Vocus Group Limited (Vocus) in the Coral Sea that will connect both Papua New Guinea (PNG) and the Solomon Islands back to Sydney (the major internet hub of the region), boosting international connectivity and providing high speed telecommunications capacity to those countries.

A Branching Unit (BU) deployed in the Coral Sea will split the cable (4 fiber pairs coming from Sydney) into two cables (2 fiber pairs each), bringing up to 20 Terabits/s bandwidth each for Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands.

The project also includes the construction of a domestic submarine network within the Solomon Islands, connecting Honiara to the outer provinces.
This is the first SDM (Spatial Division Multiplexing) subsea system deployed by ASN, relying on the new ASN SDM repeater (embedding the pump sharing innovative feature), and ASN SDM cable (with CSF80 optical fiber).

This project is a key element of Australia’s development assistance program to the Pacific, and a major project for the whole region. It has been co-funded by the governments of Australia, Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands, with Vocus as the prime contractor.

Kevin Russell, Group Managing Director and CEO of Vocus, said: “This is the third submarine cable project that Vocus has undertaken with ASN since 2014. Building this critical infrastructure on behalf of the Australian Government will bring fast, reliable and affordable connectivity to Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands, together with the associated economic and social benefits.”

Philippe Piron, President of Alcatel Submarine Networks, said: “We are proud to have been selected by Vocus Communications to build and install this system. This new contract validates our approach to provide systems with ultimate performance and reliability to our customers, enabling capacity and connectivity enhancements for end-users, as we continue to expand our presence in the Asia-Pacific region.”

The Coral Sea Cable System is expected to go live by the end of 2019. For further information, please refer to www.coralseacablesystem.com.au

About Alcatel Submarine Networks
Alcatel Submarine Networks, part of Nokia, leads the industry in terms of transmission capacity and installed base with more than 600,000 km of optical submarine systems deployed worldwide, enough to circumnavigate the globe 15 times. From traditional Telecom applications to Content and “Over The Top” Service Provider infrastructures, as well as to offshore Oil and Gas applications, ASN provides all elements of a turnkey global undersea transmission systems, tailored to individual customer’s needs. An extensive Services portfolio completes its comprehensive offering for the submarine business, including project management, installation and commissioning, along with marine and maintenance operations performed by ASN’s fully owned fleet of cable ships.

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About Vocus
Vocus Group Limited (ASX: VOC) is Australia’s specialist fibre and network solutions provider, connecting all mainland capitals with Asia. Regionally, Vocus has backhaul fibre connecting most regional centres in Australia. Vocus also operates an extensive and modern network in New Zealand, connecting the country’s capitals and most regional centres. In total, the Vocus terrestrial network is c.30,000 route-km of high performance, high availability fibre-optic cable supported by 4,600km of submarine cable connecting Singapore, Indonesia and Australia and 2,100km of submarine cable between Port Hedland and Darwin and connecting offshore oil and gas facilities in the Timor Sea. Vocus owns a portfolio of well-recognised brands catering to enterprise, government, wholesale, small business and residential customers across Australia and New Zealand.

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