



For Immediate Release

American Samoa Telecommunications Authority chooses Hawaiki Cable for trans-Pacific capacity to the US

Auckland and Pago Pago - April 26, 2016 - American Samoa Telecommunications Authority (ASTCA) has signed a contract with Hawaiki Submarine Cable LP, the owner and developer of Hawaiki submarine cable system, under which ASTCA purchases a spur to connect American Samoa to the international cable and capacity to the US West coast.

Hawaiki submarine cable system is a new trans-Pacific cable, based on coherent fiber technology and with designed capacity of over 30 Tbps, which will link Australia and New Zealand to mainland United States, as well as Hawaii, by mid-2018. Hawaiki network design also provides the ability to install optical branching units and spurs to connect South Pacific Islands to the main trunk.

The multi-million dollar deal will allow ASTCA to have its own spur to connect American Samoa to the Hawaiki cable system and to secure long-term access to international connectivity. Under the partnership, Hawaiki will also provide a substantial amount of capacity from Pago Pago to Oregon State at a very competitive rate.

Rémi Galasso, Chief Executive Officer of Hawaiki Submarine Cable LP, said Hawaiki is proud to work with a long-standing operator such as ASTCA. They perfectly understand the vital importance of broadband Internet for the socio-economic development of American Samoa and are about to secure the country's international connectivity for the next 25 years.

Mr. Galasso added, "We believe Hawaiki is a unique opportunity for the Pacific Islands to have direct connectivity to a trans-Pacific submarine cable system. We also offer very competitive option for the Pacific Islands with an all-in-one package, including the subsea infrastructure, the marine maintenance, the international bandwidth and direct connectivity to major points of presence in the US, Australia and New Zealand."

Roy J.D. Hall, Jr., Chairman of ASTCA, said "This long term investment in Hawaiki will not only boost our connectivity to mainland US and the rest of the world, but will also enable us to dramatically decrease the cost of Internet in American Samoa. Hawaiki cable represents the perfect match for our B.L.A.S.T. programme. This is the beginning of a new era for our Territory: every household, business and institution in the Territory will soon benefit from premium broadband services."

Mr. Hall added, "American Samoa will be strategically positioned to become a regional hub for Polynesian countries and territories willing to connect to the US. ASTCA is keen to partner with neighbouring operators and extend the benefits of a trans-Pacific cable to other Pacific Islands."

About Hawaiki Submarine Cable LP

Hawaiki Submarine Cable LP, headquartered in Auckland, New Zealand, is the owner and developer of the Hawaiki submarine cable system. Hawaiki is a carrier-neutral submarine cable linking Australia, New Zealand, Hawaii and Oregon, on the US West coast. For more information, visit www.hawaikicable.co.nz.

About ASTCA

American Samoa Telecommunications Authority (ASTCA) is the government owned incumbent Local Exchange Carrier and telecommunications provider in the U.S. Territory of America Samoa. Previously operated under the auspices of the Office of Public Works (1963), and later as the Office of Communications (1972), ASTCA was created via Executive Order as an enterprise fund in 1998. In 2009, ASTCA was awarded a US \$91 million project by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Utility Services (RUS) to build and deploy a fiber to the premises network aptly named Broadband Linking the American Samoa Territory (B.L.A.S.T.). ASTCA also operates an Internet Service Provider, Long Distance Exchange, and Mobile CDMA network with EVDO Rev. A (3G) data services.

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