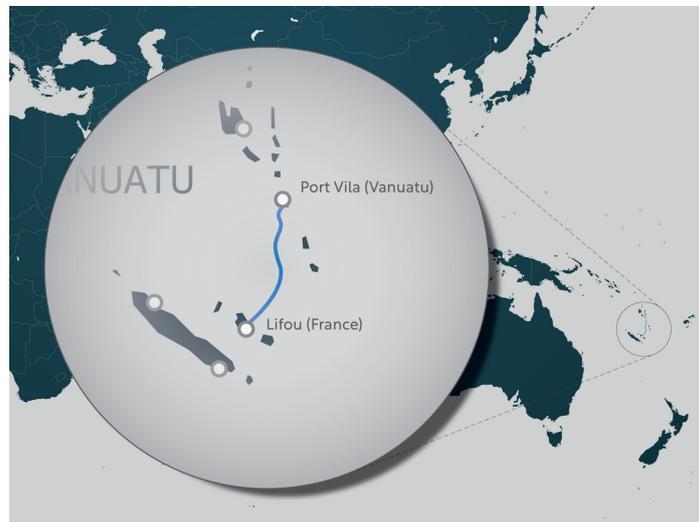


# PRESS RELEASE



## Prima and Alcatel Submarine Networks Announce the World's First SMART Cable Project Connecting Vanuatu and New Caledonia, Combining Telecommunications and Scientific Observation

**Hawaii, USA – 23 January, 2024** – In a significant move to enhance digital connectivity and seismic monitoring in the Pacific region, **Prima**, in collaboration with **Alcatel Submarine Networks (ASN)**, is delighted to announce the signing of a contract for an unprecedented project: the establishment of the first **SMART<sup>(1)</sup>** cable system. **OMS** will be responsible for the marine installation of this system, which is set to be deployed and operational in 2026.



This groundbreaking project is set to provide not only a supplementary telecom cable to New Caledonia, extending to Australia and Fiji, but also a vital component in environmental monitoring. The integration of four advanced Climate Change Nodes (**CC Nodes**) within this submarine cable system will facilitate real-time monitoring of seismic activities and efficient tsunami detection, particularly in the seismically volatile New Hebrides Trench.

This innovative technology promises to revolutionize warning systems throughout the Pacific, enhancing security and preparedness against natural disasters.



(1) Science Monitoring And Reliable Telecommunications

Prima would like to extend its heartfelt thanks to key supporters of this project:

- French Government: For their steadfast support in this venture, showing unwavering commitment and encouragement.
- Government of Vanuatu: For entrusting Prima with the implementation of this innovative hybrid cable, a gesture that signifies trust and collaboration.
- OPT NC: For their invaluable support, especially in relation to the Lifou landing, which has been pivotal in advancing the project.

The announcement of this collaboration marks a significant moment at the prestigious **PTC** conference. ASN is thrilled and honored to be a part of such a transformative project. ASN also extend its appreciation to the **SMART Joint Task Force** (JTF), whose consistent support and expertise have been crucial in realizing this ambitious project.

More than just an infrastructural advancement, this SMART cable project symbolizes the strength of international collaboration in addressing global challenges. By merging telecommunications with environmental monitoring technologies, this endeavor will substantially enhance the safety, connectivity, and scientific insight of the Pacific region.

#### **About Prima Limited**

Prima is a telecommunications and data infrastructure firm registered and based in Port Vila, Vanuatu.

Prima operates satellite teleports, international subsea fibre optic cables systems, terrestrial fibre networks and data centre assets in Melanesia.

Prima is responsible for maintenance and operations of the 'ICN1' subsea cable system which connects Vanuatu to Suva, Fiji and has been operational since January 2014.

Prima is proudly 100% owned and operated by citizens of Vanuatu..

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#### **About Alcatel Submarine Networks (ASN)**

**Alcatel Submarine Networks**, part of Nokia, leads the industry in terms of transmission capacity and installed base with more than 750,000 km of optical submarine systems deployed worldwide, enough to go almost 19 times around the world. 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 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 wholly owned fleet of cable ships.

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