

AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY POHNPEI

MEDIA RELEASE

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TELECOMMUNICATIONS CABLE LANDING STATION INSTALLED IN POHNPEI

Faster, high quality and more reliable internet is one step closer for communities in the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), following the installation of an undersea cable landing station in Pohnpei.

The cable landing station forms part of the East Micronesia Cable project, funded by Australia, Japan and the United States, which will improve connectivity across FSM, Kiribati and Nauru. Local partners are delivering the project, which in FSM include the Department of Transportation, Communications and Infrastructure, Telecommunications Regulations Authority and FSM Telecommunications Cable Corporation.

The cable landing station's installation is an important milestone towards increased economic growth and development, with the project to deliver a 2,250-kilometre-long undersea cable and supporting infrastructure connecting Tarawa in Kiribati, Nauru and Kosrae in FSM to the existing HANTRU-1 cable landing point located in Pohnpei.

Once in service, the cable is expected to provide more than 100,000 people across the three countries with more reliable internet, increasing the availability of digital government services and enabling increased trade and employment opportunities.

The project will also strengthen FSM's resilience to climate change, assisting governments with disaster and climate change preparedness and reducing the chances of an outage in the event of adverse weather events.

Australia is supporting the AUD135 million project via the <u>Australian Infrastructure</u> <u>Financing Facility for the Pacific</u> (AIFFP), with a grant of AUD60 million.

The AIFFP is committed to principles of quality infrastructure delivery, with the project delivering local labour and job opportunities.

"The East Micronesia Cable project will connect families and communities – to each other and opportunities – across atolls and the region," Australia's Ambassador to FSM, Ms Jenny Grant-Curnow said.

"Australia is proud to invest in critical infrastructure that will have a real impact for the people of FSM."

The Kosrae cable landing station is expected to be installed in May, ahead of a ready for service date of December 2025.

For more information about the project, visit the <u>AIFFP website</u> or the <u>East</u> <u>Micronesia Cable website</u>, which provides information in English, Gilbertese, Kosraean and Nauruan.