

February 5, 2019

Council breaks ground on Sunshine Coast submarine cable landing station

Construction is underway on the \$6.6 million cable landing station, which is the major land-based facility for the \$35 million Sunshine Coast International Broadband Submarine Cable network.

The submarine cable landing station, located at Maud Street, Maroochydore, will help deliver Australia's fastest data and telecommunications connection to Asia from the east coast of Australia and the second fastest to the United States via an undersea fibre optic cable.

Mayor Mark Jamieson said the commencement of construction of the cable landing station marked the next significant milestone in the delivery of the Sunshine Coast international broadband submarine cable project.

"Council is the first local government in Australia to secure an investment in an international submarine cable and with the cable landing station underway, we are ensuring the delivery of the international submarine cable connection is on track to be operational in mid-2020" Mayor Jamieson said.

"Our Sunshine Coast is fast becoming a digital leader and the submarine cable network will help to position our region as a key digital trading location from Australia.

"The Sunshine Coast will provide the fastest international data and telecommunication connection point from Queensland to Asia, providing a significant step-change in the Sunshine Coast's attractiveness as an investment location.

"We will be stimulating investment and jobs growth on the Sunshine Coast thanks to the superior telecommunications connectivity and data infrastructure that we will be able to offer and this could serve to attract some of the biggest data users to our region."

RTI Connectivity is building a 9700-kilometre submarine cable between Japan, Guam and Australia (JGA), and a 550-kilometre branch which will connect the JGA cable to the new landing station at Maroochydore.

RTI Connectivity Director David Yuile congratulated the Sunshine Coast Council for its support, emphasising the vital international connectivity the submarine cable would provide to the Sunshine Coast.

"The Sunshine Coast International Broadband Submarine Cable is a major piece of infrastructure for the region and the State," Mr Yuile said.

"Fast speed, direct connectivity to Asian markets and beyond is an essential tool for local and state-wide businesses and it will be a catalyst for increased investment in this region."

Following a tender process, Australian-based Vertiv, a global leader in critical infrastructure, was recently awarded the contract to design and construct the cable landing station.

Robert Linsdell, Managing Director of Vertiv (Australia and New Zealand) said the project would support the local building and construction industry as well as providing future employment opportunities.

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“Vertiv is committed to maximising the use of locally based contractors throughout the project,” Mr Linsdell said.

“With that in mind, I’m thrilled to announce that Lanskey Constructions have been appointed as the builder to deliver this exciting project for the region.”

Lanskey Constructions Managing Director, Paul Lanskey said they were looking forward to the challenge of building this core piece of the network infrastructure.

“Earthworks for the landing station will start immediately and the building works are scheduled for completion by the end of June 2019,” Mr Lanskey said.

“During construction, the project will directly employ around 80 people, and generate additional indirect economic benefits to surrounding businesses and the community.”

On completion, council will start the installation phase for the landing station facilities that will connect to the wider network, in preparation for the submarine cable connection being operational in mid-2020.

The Queensland Government is contributing \$15 million towards the international broadband submarine cable project from its \$150 million Jobs and Regional Growth fund.

For more information visit invest.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au

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