

ITU-PITA WORKSHOP

“Enhancing access to submarine cables for
Pacific Islands Countries”

31 July - 3 August, 2017, Suva, Fiji

Cook Islands

Telecommunication Status

- Coverage for fixed, mobile and internet: 100%
- Fixed broadband subscription: 3,200
- Active mobile broadband subscription: 1,135
- Households with internet: 30%
- International connectivity via O3B satellite
 - 155mb of bandwidth
 - GEOSAT is backup
- Cost of internet: varies according to plan
 - Mobile internet @ 2000MB: NZ\$.04500 per MB
 - Broadband @ 100GB NZ\$.00699 per MB
- Upgraded from 3G to 4.5G
 - 500mbps – fastest in the Pacific

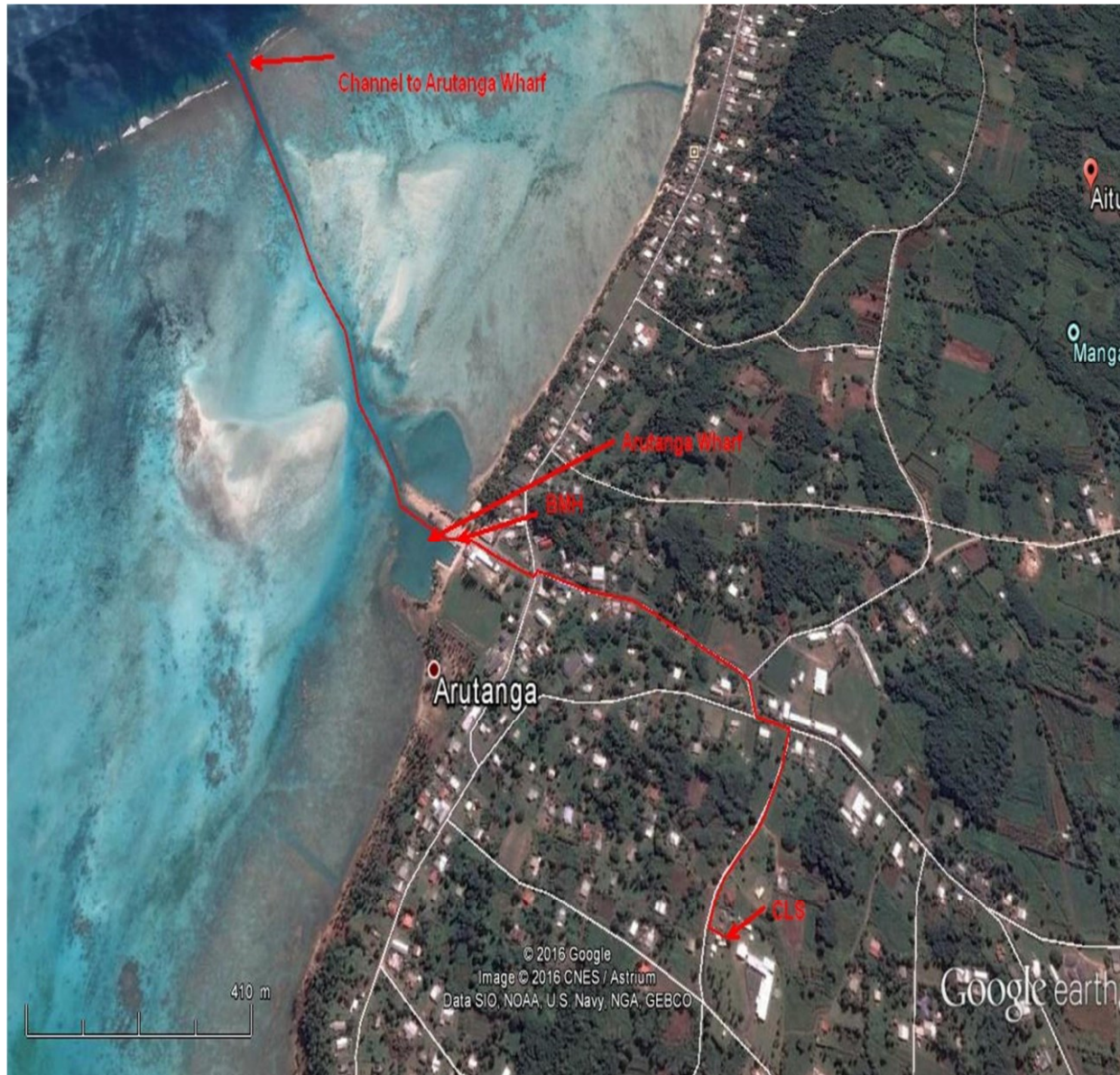
Proposed plans

- Manatua Cable
 - Consortium: Samoa, Niue, Cook Islands, French Polynesia
 - Work in progress: finalizing documents (Supply contract, C&MA, MOUs, Shareholders Agreement, etc)
 - Estimated date of implementation: 2019
 - Cost for Cook Islands: NZ\$34 million
 - Confirmed funding: NZ\$15million grant from NZ
 - Private company set up: Avaroa Cables Ltd
- Passing of related legislation by the end of the year
 - New Telecommunications Bill (precedes establishment of a telecommunications regulator)
 - Utilities Bill

Proposed
cable
landing
stations -
Rarotonga



Proposed cable landing stations - Aitutaki



Challenges

- Local skills and capacity
- No regulatory framework
- Cable landing station issues
 - Land ownership
 - Distance from manhole – risk of damage
 - Exposure to cyclones
 - Lagoon activities
- Public perception of cable vs satellite