



Pacific
Telecommunications
Council

914 Coolidge Street
Honolulu, Hawaii. 96826-3085 USA

Telephone 1.808.941.3789
Fax 1.808.944.4874
Email info@ptc.org
Website www.ptc.org

March 23, 2010

Ms Marlene Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th St, SW
Washington DC 20554

*Re: Application by French Polynesia's Office of Posts & Telecommunication
File Nos: SCL-LIC-20081008-00017 and ITC-214-2008100800453*

Dear Ms Dortch

The Pacific Telecommunications Council (PTC) is the peak telecommunications industry body for the Asia-Pacific region with members from carriers, suppliers, regulators, and support services. PTC's members hail from the United States and 32 other countries. For 30 years, PTC has championed and assisted the development of better telecommunications for nations around the Pacific. In recent years, it has strongly encouraged the adoption of more submarine cables and has seen smaller territories such as American Samoa, Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Marshall Islands, and the Federated States of Micronesia secure cables.

One cable that PTC has played a part in inspiring is the Honotua cable from Tahiti to Hawaii so as to enable the South Pacific nation of French Polynesia to be effectively connected to the global telecommunications highways for the conduct of e-business. The cable is vital to the country's further development and particularly to trade and commerce with Hawaii and the USA, and the rest of the world.

PTC is aware that the cable has been successfully laid and testing is almost complete. Yet we understand that it cannot be placed into the service as it has not yet received the required licenses from US regulatory authorities due to a very long approval process. PTC is concerned that it takes much longer for foreign-owned cable systems to obtain regulatory authorizations in the United States—including FCC licenses and Executive Branch clearances—than it does for U.S. concerns to obtain the same authorizations, delaying in-region connectivity and possibly encouraging other countries to treat foreign investors in a less favorable manner. Such outcomes disserve the United States and its neighbors in the Pacific region.

PTC would like respectfully request that in order for French Polynesia to position its economy to participate effectively in the global community, the Commission grants expeditiously the necessary licenses and permits to OPT to place into service and operate the Honotua cable.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John Hibbard".

John Hibbard
President

cc: Priya Aiyar
Mindel De La Torre