

MEDIA RELEASE

Australia's First Submarine Hypercable Ready for Ship Loading

Calais, France and Brisbane, Australia – Tuesday, 25th February – SUBCO announced that Australia's first submarine "hypercable" SMAP is now fully manufactured and is ready for ship loading at the ASN manufacturing factory in Calais, France.

SMAP is a 400 Terabit-per-second (Tbps) 5,000-kilometre, 16-fibre-pair submarine cable system connecting Sydney, Melbourne (via Torquay), Adelaide and Perth. Once built, the system will be the first intercity cable connecting Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide and Perth in well over 20 years, providing much needed diversity and capacity required to better enable AI and Cloud technologies in Australia.

SUBCO's subsea engineering team was on-site at the ASN factory to oversee the assembly of the cable system, which includes 60 repeaters and four branching units. The team supervised rigorous quality testing to ensure the cable meets the highest industry standards. These tests included shape and tilt equalisation, current and voltage checks, and optical signal-to-noise ratio (OSNR) verification. Additionally, factory simulations replicated the cable's real-world operating conditions to confirm its resilience.

"We're thrilled to reach this stage of the SMAP project," said Lee Harper, SUBCO's Chief Operating Officer. "After overseeing the system assembly testing at ASN, we're confident that we're building the world's most resilient and reliable subsea cable system."

SUBCO's Founder, Bevan Slattery added: "This milestone was an incredibly rewarding one for the team, as we now formally commence the marine program which will see SMAP fully installed and ready to start testing and commissioning in December this year. Lots of work ahead, but at the same time I can't wait to invite our key customers and partners for the many cable landings planned for around Australia later this year."

The hyperscale cable will land in Perth mid-year before proceeding to subsequent landing locations. SMAP remains on schedule to be fully installed by December 2025 and ready for commissioning and testing.

About SMAP:

SUBCO's SMAP cable is engineered to be Australia's most secure and resilient transcontinental subsea cable system. Key industry firsts include:

- **Enhanced Protection:** Australia's first fully armoured, long-haul subsea cable system, delivering superior protection against physical damage and reducing the risk of unplanned outages.

- **Unprecedented Capacity in the region:** Australia's first space-division multiplexing (SDM) subsea cable system, providing over 400Tbps of capacity across 16 fibre pairs.
- **Advanced Sensing Technology:** The second subsea cable system in Australia to incorporate dedicated sensing fibres, extending FiberSense capabilities up to 150 kilometres. The first system to feature this technology was SUBCO's Oman Australia Cable (OAC).

About SUBCO

Founded by industry leader Bevan Slattery, SUBCO is a specialist consulting and investment company that has developed some of the world's most innovative subsea cable networks. SUBCO has a strong record of developing, owning and operating largescale submarine infrastructure in the Australasia region, which has provided critical digital gateways to Asia, North America and EMEA. Over the last five years, the company has amassed a formidable portfolio of submarine infrastructure and, with the recent SMAP cable project, will be approaching \$750m of investment. Importantly, SUBCO's OAC, Indigo and SMAP systems provide a critical bridge in the creation of the "Great Southern Route" that runs from West Coast USA to Asia and EMEA, avoiding the South China Sea, Malacca Strait and Andaman Sea – areas of geopolitical tension, congested waters and territorial disputes. SMAP also provides critical diversity to Australia's existing backhaul networks and interconnects the nation's east and west international systems, driving Australia's emergence as a connectivity hub within the Asia Pacific region.

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