



## **REACH CELEBRATES SECOND APCN 2 CABLE LANDING**

**Massive bandwidth increase, self-healing ring configuration boosts Reach's ability as a premier connectivity service provider**

**Hong Kong, 9 March 2001** – Telstra-PCCW/HKTI global connectivity joint venture company, Reach, today celebrated the second landing in Hong Kong of the Asia-Pacific Region's first-ever self-healing, high capacity, optical-fibre submarine cable network.

Asia Pacific Cable Network 2 (APCN 2), which first landed in Hong Kong on 22 February, involves the region's major carriers. It will connect top Asian markets, including China, and is expected to be operational by the end of September. Reach is the cable's largest shareholder, owning approximately 6 per cent.

### **APCN 2 highlights include:**

- ❑ **Enormous bandwidth of 2.56 terabits per second, equal to 2,560 gigabits per second, large enough to handle more than 33 million telephone conversations simultaneously, assuming a circuit speed of 64 kilobits per second.**
- ❑ **State-of-the-art Dense Wavelength Division Multiplexing, enabling large-volume information transmissions via various wavelengths on a single optical fibre.**
- ❑ **Self-healing ring configuration, which prompts instant rerouting of data transfers along APCN 2 in the event of disruptions.**
- ❑ **Direct connections to eight countries and interconnections worldwide.**

The 19,000 km-long APCN 2 cable system is progressively becoming operational. When completed in September, it will connect China, Hong Kong, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, and Taiwan. APCN 2 will also provide seamless interconnection with other major trans-oceanic cable networks linking the USA, Europe, Australia, and other parts of Asia.

Keith Harrison, Director of the Board, said Reach aims to build on its existing infrastructure, interconnection agreements and extensive portfolio of connectivity products and services. With APCN 2 bandwidth share, Reach aims to become the provider of choice for companies wishing to do business in the Asia-Pacific region.

"Reach is much more than a network operator," said Mr. Harrison. "We take capacity as an input and add switching and services to provide seamless voice, data and Internet connectivity services to other carriers and service providers. This means our customers can grow their business by providing one-stop global connectivity to their end-user clients."

Such access to capacity enhances Reach's position as a premier service provider, both regionally and globally. APCN 2 will provide customers with diversity and competitiveness through alternative routing options, while Reach offers services in line with today's bandwidth-hungry applications.

Director of Reach, Dick Simpson, said the company provides an innovative mix of traditional and new generation connectivity products and services via ubiquitous broadband networks.

“This seamless regional and global connectivity enables our wholesale customers to grow their businesses as the world increasingly embraces new generation data and IP-based products and services, including e-commerce,” said Mr Simpson.

“The state-of-the-art APCN 2 system underpins that strategy. Combined with the approximately 50 other cables in which Reach has an interest, it will help us achieve our regional ambitions in the short to medium term.”

Cost of the project is approximately US\$1 billion. Today's landing at South Lantau Cable Station on Lantau Island is a portion of the segment from Malaysia to Hong Kong, whereas the 22 February landing forms part of the Shanghai-Hong Kong link.

The Supply Contract for construction of the APCN 2-cable system was signed between the APCN 2 consortium and Japan's NEC Corporation in April 2000.

Reach was represented at today's landing by Board members David Prince and Keith Harrison; and Hong Kong and Australian presidents, Roger Barlow and John Hibbard. Representing NEC were President, NEC Ocean Engineering LTD, Takeo Umetsu, and General Project Manager, NEC Corporation, Yushi Uchida.

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