



Press release

## SPIN SAS signs turnkey contract with Alcatel-Lucent to deploy New 8,200 km submarine cable network

*First west-east cable will connect South Pacific countries and territories to the global submarine backbone*

**Nouméa, July 30, 2009** - SPIN SAS has announced today the signature of a turnkey contract with Alcatel-Lucent for the deployment of a new submarine cable network linking New Caledonia, French Polynesia and New Zealand. Named South Pacific Islands Network (SPIN), this new submarine network will span 8,200 km, providing some remote territories with direct access to the global network and offering the region greater capacity.

As the first west-east system in South Pacific, SPIN will connect remote territories in the sub-region ending their isolation and will enhance international connectivity by lining to other submarine cable networks under completion such as French Polynesia OPT's Honotua or already completed such as New Caledonia OPT's Gondwana. This new project will enhance the role of the South Pacific sub-region as communications hub to expand broadband penetration, while lowering the cost of broadband access.

SPIN will be composed of two segments:

- Segment 1 connecting Nouméa in New Caledonia to Tahiti in French Polynesia, with landing points located in Vanuatu, Wallis, Samoa, and American Samoa. This segment will have an ultimate capacity of 640 Gbit/s;
- Segment 2 linking Nouméa in New Caledonia to Auckland in New Zealand, with one landing point located in Norfolk Island. This segment will have an ultimate capacity of 640 Gbit/s.

"Higher and more cost-effective capacity and connectivity is required to meet the increasing demand for broadband services and to relieve from expensive satellite connections," said Rémi Galasso, Chief Executive Officer of SPIN SAS, "SPIN will also offer an alternative route as existing systems are mainly north-south submarine cables enhancing traffic protection in the sub-region."