

Fiber optic cable cut in Papua New Guinea



Overview

Internet giant Google will lay three undersea cables in Papua New Guinea as part of a landmark defense deal the Pacific nation signed with Australia this year.

Key Takeaways

Papua New Guinea relies heavily on the Coral Sea Cable System for international internet connectivity, and any cut can significantly disrupt communications and increase latency.

Coral Sea Cable System Overview

Papua New Guinea's primary international internet connection is the Coral Sea Cable System (CS2), a 4,700 km submarine fiber optic cable linking Port Moresby to Sydney, Australia, with a branch to the Solomon Islands. The system has a total capacity of 40 terabits per second, with each country able to access up to 20 terabits/sec if fully expanded. The cable uses Dense Wavelength Division Multiplexing (DWDM) and repeated 100G technology, ensuring high-speed, reliable connectivity.

The CS2 also includes the Solomon Islands Domestic Network (SIDN), connecting provincial centers via submarine links. Impact of a Cable Cut A fiber optic cable cut in PNG would typically result in: Reduced international bandwidth: Internet speeds may drop, and large data transfers could be delayed. Increased latency: Traffic may be rerouted through alternative, often slower, satellite or regional networks.



Service disruptions: Businesses, government services, and educational institutions relying on stable internet may experience outages. Repair timelines: Submarine cable repairs can take days to weeks, depending on the location of the cut, availability of repair ships, and weather conditions, similar to incidents in other regions like the Red Sea.

Local Fiber Infrastructure

In addition to the CS2, PNG has domestic fiber networks supported by providers like Cetelnet, which supply single-mode and multi-mode fiber for urban and remote areas. These networks help maintain local connectivity but cannot fully compensate for international outages.

Mitigation and Alternatives

During a cable cut, operators may: Reroute traffic through satellite links or regional networks, though this increases latency. Prioritize critical services such as government communications and emergency services. Accelerate repair operations using specialized cable repair ships and splicing equipment.

Conclusion

The Coral Sea Cable System is vital for PNG's internet connectivity, and any disruption can have widespread effects on communication, commerce, and public services. While local fiber networks provide some resilience, international connectivity remains dependent on the submarine cable, making timely repairs and contingency planning essential for minimizing impact.

Article Content

Google to lay undersea cables in Papua New Guinea

Internet giant Google will lay three undersea cables in Papua New Guinea as part of a landmark defense deal the Pacific nation signed with Australia this year.

Trusted Fiber Optic Contractor Papua New Guinea

Cetelnet is a Papua New Guinea fiber optic contractor that performs network design, installation, splicing and maintenance.

Google to build three subsea cables in Papua New

Google will build three subsea cables in Papua New Guinea as part of plans to upgrade the digital backbone of the biggest Pacific Island nation. The

Google to build undersea cables in Papua New Guinea under

Google will build three subsea cables in Papua New Guinea, which the Pacific Island nation says is being funded by Australia under a mutual defence treaty.

Coral Sea Cable Company

The Coral Sea Cable System is a 4700km long fibre optic submarine cable system linking Sydney, Australia, to Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea and Honiara.

PNG DataCo's ambitious roadmap for the internet in Papua New Guinea

The most expensive item in the next three years will be the expansion of PNG's terrestrial and undersea cable network, including the commissioning of phase two of the Kumul Submarine

Fibre network remains backbone of internet in PNG -

Papua New Guinea's internet system continues to rely heavily on fibre optic cables, despite the growing presence of satellite-based services

Google to lay undersea cables in Papua New Guinea

He added the cables -- providing connectivity to northern and southern parts of Papua New Guinea, as well as the autonomous region of Bougainville -- will lay the foundation for the country...

Papua New Guinea suffers suspected cable break after earthquake

The Indonesian half of New Guinea is only connected to other islands within Indonesia, with no international subsea cables landing there. A 7.6-magnitude earthquake struck Papua New

PNG DataCo Expands National Transmission Network with 12,000 km

This infrastructure supports a terrestrial fibre network that connects all 22 provinces and currently reaches 48 of the country's 96 districts. Such extensive coverage is crucial for enhancing

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Trusted Fiber Optic Contractor Papua New Guinea

Leading Fiber Optic Supplier Papua New Guinea Fast, secure, and reliable connectivity is essential for national development in the digital age. As

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The System | Enhance Connectivity Today

The 4700 km Coral Sea Cable System is a 40Tbps submarine fibre optic cable that brings next-generation connectivity to the people of Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands. It directly

Papua New Guinea suffers suspected cable break after earthquake

Papua New Guinea's domestic subsea cable is suffering a partial outage due to a recent earthquake. State-owned PNG DataCo announced yesterday (October 8) that its network has

Coral Sea Cable System project marks key milestones

The 4,700km Coral Sea Cable System under construction by Vocus, has achieved two major milestones, with the cable now installed at the landing

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