

# BRIEF: How Bosun subsea cable and data centre investment will shape Australia's Indo-Pacific future

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# How Bosun subsea cable and data centre investment will shape Australia's Indo-Pacific future

**Abstract:** Australia is solidifying its role as a digital anchor in the Indo-Pacific with the announcement of Google's Bosun subsea cable, part of the Australia Connect initiative. This project enhances Australia's global connectivity through strategic links from Darwin to Christmas Island and Singapore, while integrating domestic networks. With data centre capacity projected to more than double by 2030, Australia is poised to lead the region's digital transformation.

## Anchoring the Indo-Pacific's Digital Future

On November 26, 2024, Google announced the Bosun subsea cable, a cornerstone of its Australia Connect initiative, aimed at strengthening Australia's role as a pivotal digital hub in the Indo-Pacific.

This project underscores Australia's growing importance in global connectivity, leveraging strategic partnerships with Vocus, SUBCO, and NEXTDC to enhance infrastructure resilience and diversify data pathways. The Bosun cable connects Darwin to Christmas Island and Singapore, while integrating with domestic networks in Melbourne, Perth, and beyond, creating robust international and regional connectivity.

As global data demand surges, Australia's data centre capacity is projected to grow from 1,350 MW (2024) to 3,100 MW by 2030, driven by \$26 billion in forecasted investments. Subsea cables, such as Bosun and complementary systems like SMAP and Tabua, are critical enablers of this growth, offering scalable, secure, and efficient pathways for global data traffic.

Amid geopolitical tensions and the need for resilient infrastructure, Australia's investments in digital connectivity solidify its position as a secure gateway between Asia, the Americas, and the Pacific. By fostering partnerships, enhancing regulatory frameworks, and addressing workforce challenges, Australia is well-placed to lead the Indo-Pacific's digital transformation while offering attractive investment opportunities in critical infrastructure and emerging technologies.

The key features of the Bosun Cable are:

- **Primary Route:** Connects Darwin to Christmas Island, extending onward to Singapore, a major hub for global data traffic.
- **Integration with Domestic Networks:** Interlinks Melbourne, Perth, and Christmas Island, creating a robust connection between key Australian cities and the Honomoana cable system, which links the United States to Asia.
- **Broader Connectivity Goals:** Supports Google's Tabua subsea cable, connecting the United States, Australia, and Fiji, providing additional international pathways.
- **Collaboration Partners:** Google Cloud, in partnership with Vocus, SUBCO, and NEXTDC, has committed to developing landing stations and supporting terrestrial infrastructure in strategic locations like Darwin, the Sunshine Coast, and Melbourne.

## Why does this matter?

Australia is emerging as a pivotal player in the Indo-Pacific, leveraging its geographic position, stable governance, and growing investments in digital infrastructure to anchor the region's connectivity. Positioned between major global markets, Australia serves as a secure and resilient gateway for data traffic between the United States, Asia, and the Pacific Islands.

Projects like the Bosun subsea cable and state-of-the-art data centres are strengthening Australia's digital backbone, enabling the flow of critical internet traffic, financial transactions, and essential communications across the region. In a time of growing geopolitical tensions, particularly between the U.S. and China, Australia offers reliable alternatives to traditional routes through politically sensitive areas such as the South China Sea.

As demand for data skyrockets with advancements in AI, 6G, and emerging technologies, Australia's robust digital infrastructure is cementing its role as a regional connectivity hub. Its partnerships with global tech leaders, like Google, and its commitment to renewable energy and digital security enhance its appeal as a trusted partner for regional and global stakeholders.

By fostering secure, efficient, and sustainable pathways for digital growth, Australia is not only supporting its own economic ambitions but also driving the Indo-Pacific's digital transformation and stability.

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