

Broadband availability and adoption

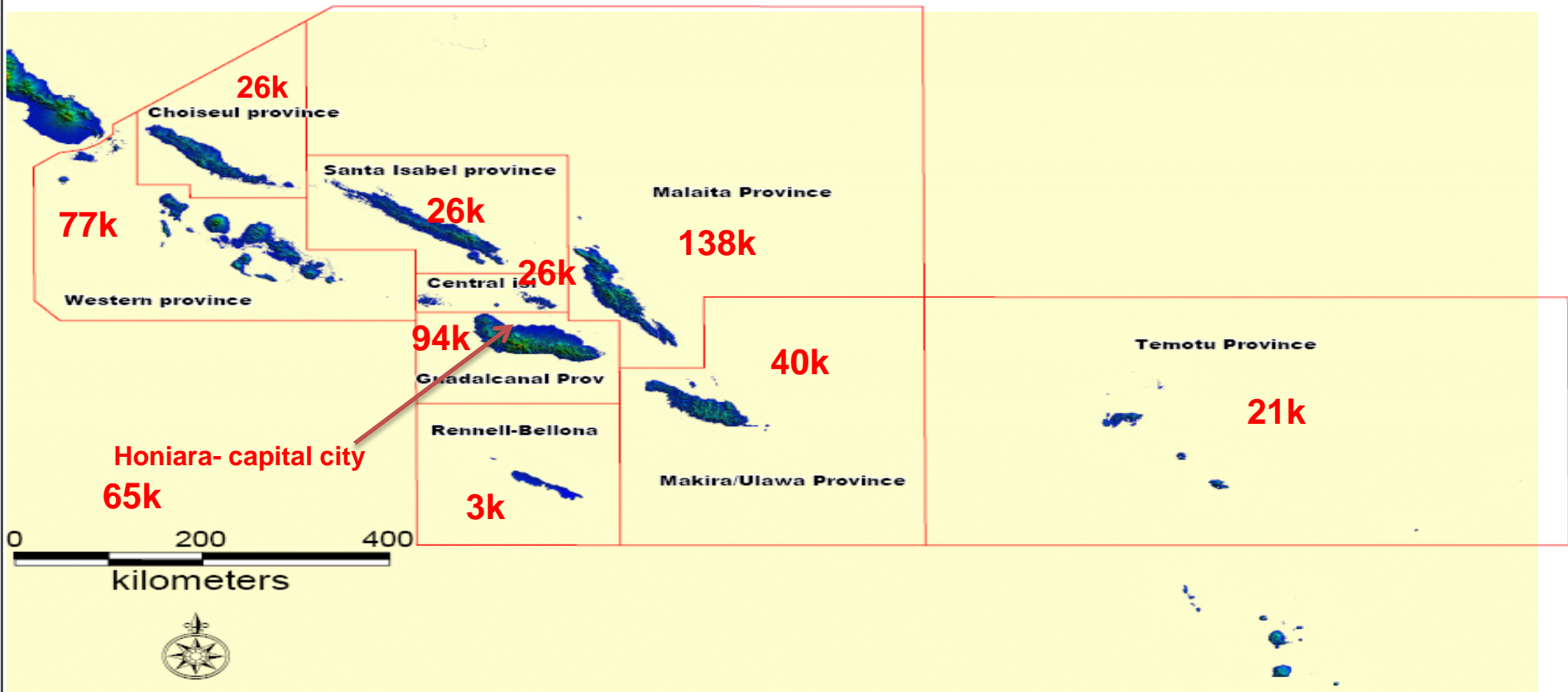
Solomon Islands

ITU-D Regional Economic & Financial Forum of Telecommunications/ICTs
for Asia & Pacific, Yangon, Myanmar, 1 – 2nd September 2014

Telecommunications Sector

- 1. Gov't Policy – Introduce private sector competition**
- 2. Telecommunications Act 2009**
- 3. World Bank Telco & ICT Project**
- 4. Commission established (TCSI)**
- 5. 15 year exclusive license to Our Solomon Telekom ended**
- 6. Second operator enters the market - Bmobile -Vodafone**

SOLOMON ISLANDS



- Population: 515,870 (80% in rural villages) (*Approx. Pop density in red (k=000).*)
- Six main islands with 120 indigenous languages
- Telecom Mobile Network Coverage: 83%
- Penetration rate: 58%
- Providers: Solomon Telekom, BemobileVodafone
- Technology: GSM, 3G (UMTS), HSDPA/HSUPA 2.5G (EDGE and GPRS)
- Network: Fixed Line, Mobile, Wireless, Broadband, Submarine fiber-optic cable in planning
- Market Liberalized in 2009 with establishment of the Commission

Broadband

Availability

Present status of Mobile network

Operators:

1. Solomon Telekom - *(Provides Fixed-line, Mobile and ISP) : 60% market share of mobile.*
2. Bemobile - *(Provides and will become ISP) : 40% market share of mobile*
3. *two other small licensed firms provide Internet access*

Backhaul:

1. Satellite
2. Microwave
3. V-sat

Infrastructure - Mobile

- ***Overall network around the islands consist of:***
 - (i) 125 -2G Base Stations, (ii) 18 -3G 2100 Nodes, (iii)19 - 3G 850 Nodes
- ***Connected by microwave and Satellite link***
- ***International connectivity by Satellite***
- ***3G (HSDPA) in 3 major centres (Honiara, Auki & Gizo). Most of the islands have access to 2G (EDGE & GPRS)***
- ***All traffic linked to Honiara where (MCS) located.***

Infrastructure cont:-

- **Technology: GSM, 3-3.5G (UMTS) 2.5G (EDGE and GPRS)**
- **Smart phones handsets: (*Samsung, Nokia, Alcatel, others.*)**
- **Network services: (*Fixed Line, Mobile, Wireless, Internet, Broadband*)**
- **Submarine fiber-optic cable project in progress**

International Connectivity

- Satellite
- Bandwidth usage on simplex mode 230Mbps for 2014
- Traffics routed through single gateway via Microwave link
- Two ISPs with few connections through VSAT

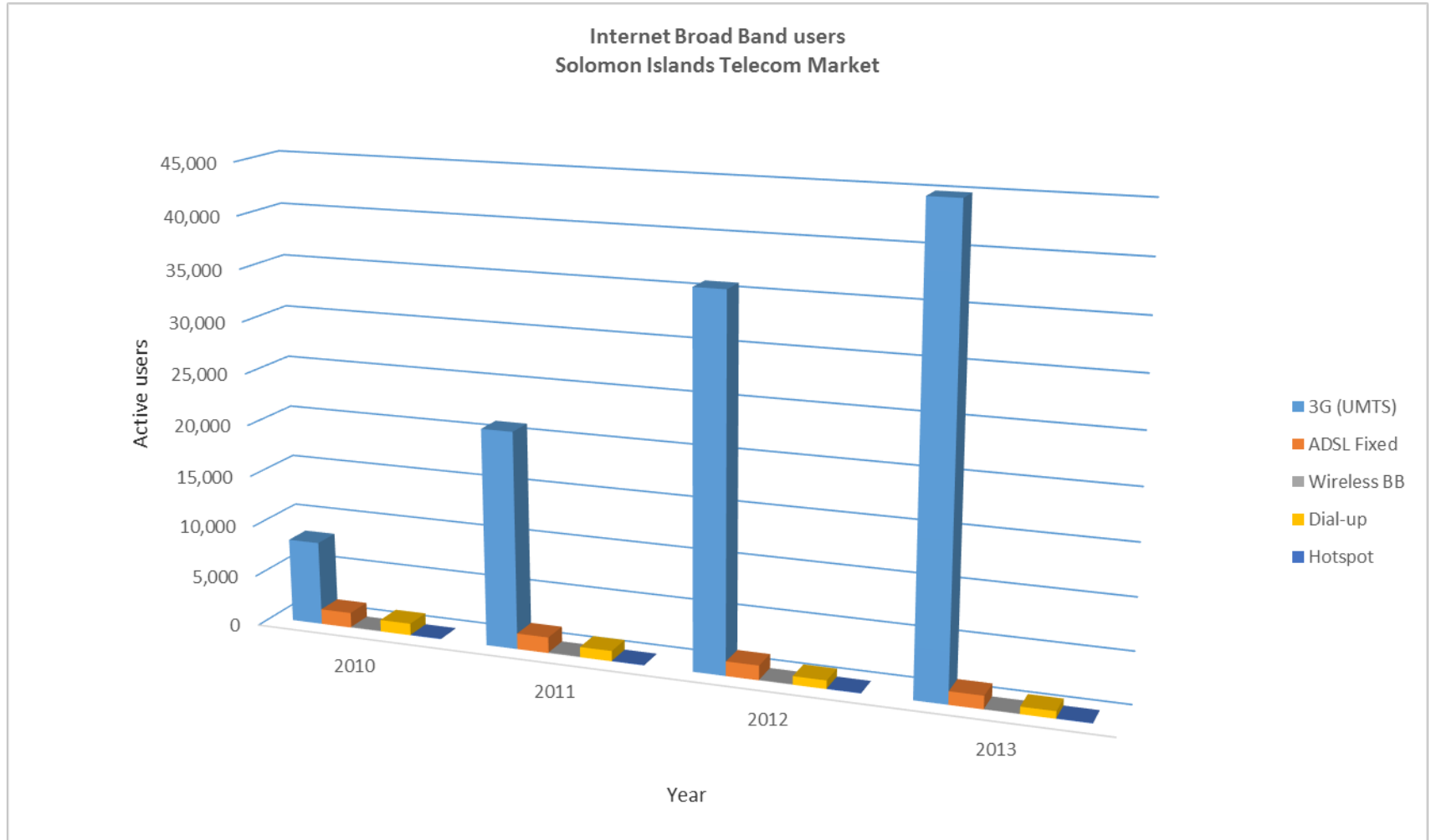
3G+ Availability as at August 2014



Speed and Technology

- Current speed (Mbps)
 - i) Wireless < 2 = 5% of Population (
 - ii) Wireless <3 = 3% of Population
 - iii) Fixed line 256-2048kbps/64-896kbps = 0.2% of Pop.
- Access by Technology type
 - i) Mobile access = 8% of Population
 - ii) ADSL = 0.2% of Population (Cafés & Business)
 - iii) DSL = 0.1% of Population (small business)
 - iv) Wireless hotspot = 0.02% of Pop (Hotspot)

Access by Technology



Rural vs Urban access

- Rural Islands & Villages only access to voice
- Urban areas (Honiara, Auki, Gizo, Noro) access to almost 98% of the Broadband. WHY? – electricity, infrastructure cost, cost of handsets & data, low level of cash transactions due to subsistence economic activities. Only about 10% of population.

Broadband

Adoption

National ICT & Broadcasting Policy

- A scoping and draft National ICT policy plan is in progress under World Bank project
- Broadcasting policy launch in Oct 2013
- Consultation of all stakeholders for input

Government Network

- **Metro Network (SIG Connect) currently installed- connecting all Government Ministries & agencies (Ausaid funded)**
- **New platform for services like:**
 - **E- government**
 - **E-education**
 - **E-commerce**
 - **Mobile banking**

Mobile banking

- **Pacific Financial Inclusion Project (PFIP)**
- **First in Pacific - good regulatory regime as an enabling environment**
- **All Commercial Bank launched services;**
 - **ANZ-go money**
 - **BSP – branchless bank**
 - **Westpac - soon**

Rural Connectivity

80% of the population lives in rural areas where network access is low (coverage & penetration)

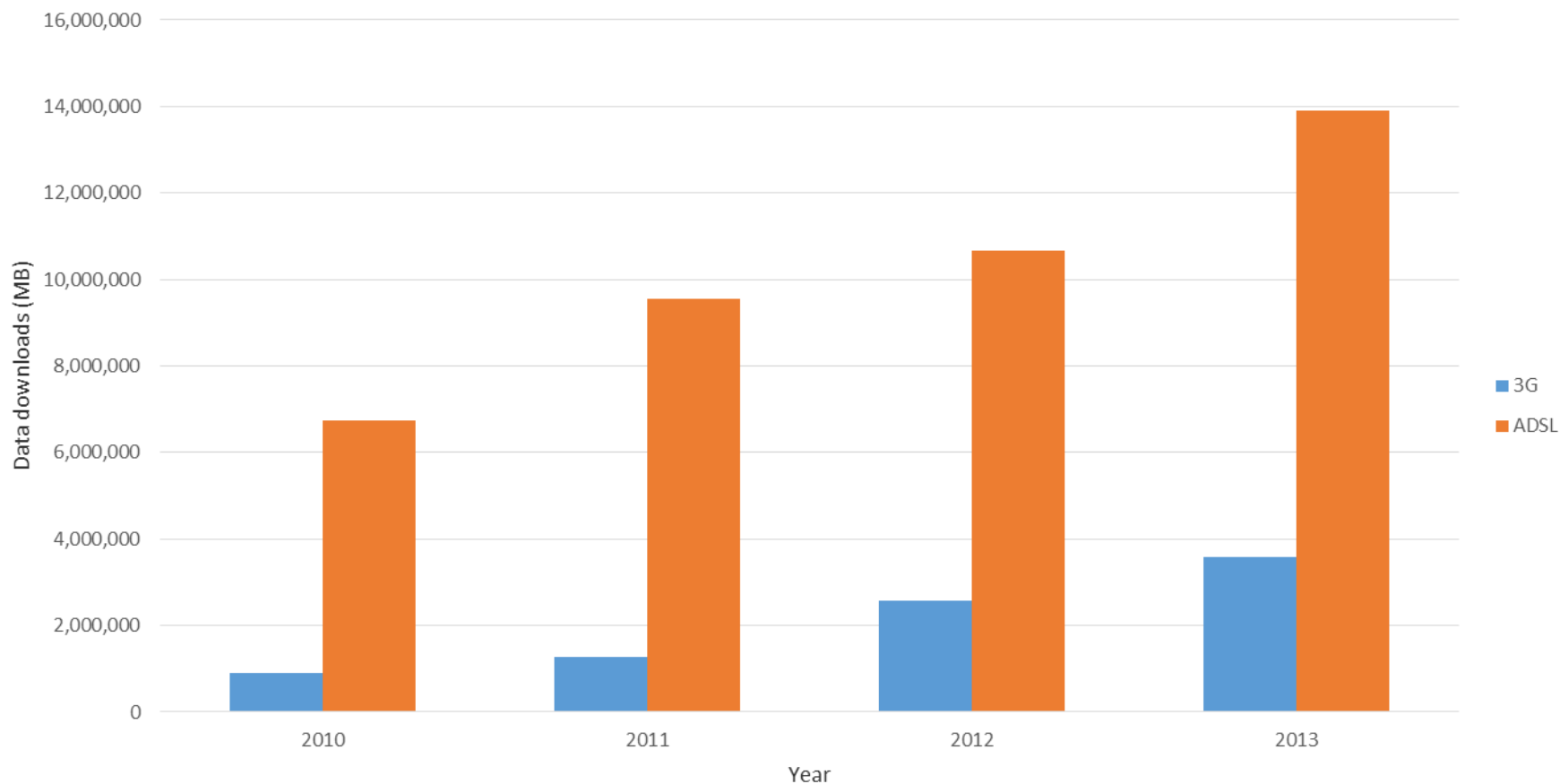
Demand Access through:

- **Universal Access Policy**
- **V-sat network**
- **Access to land/power sometimes prohibits**

Let the market force works with Gov't the purchaser of services

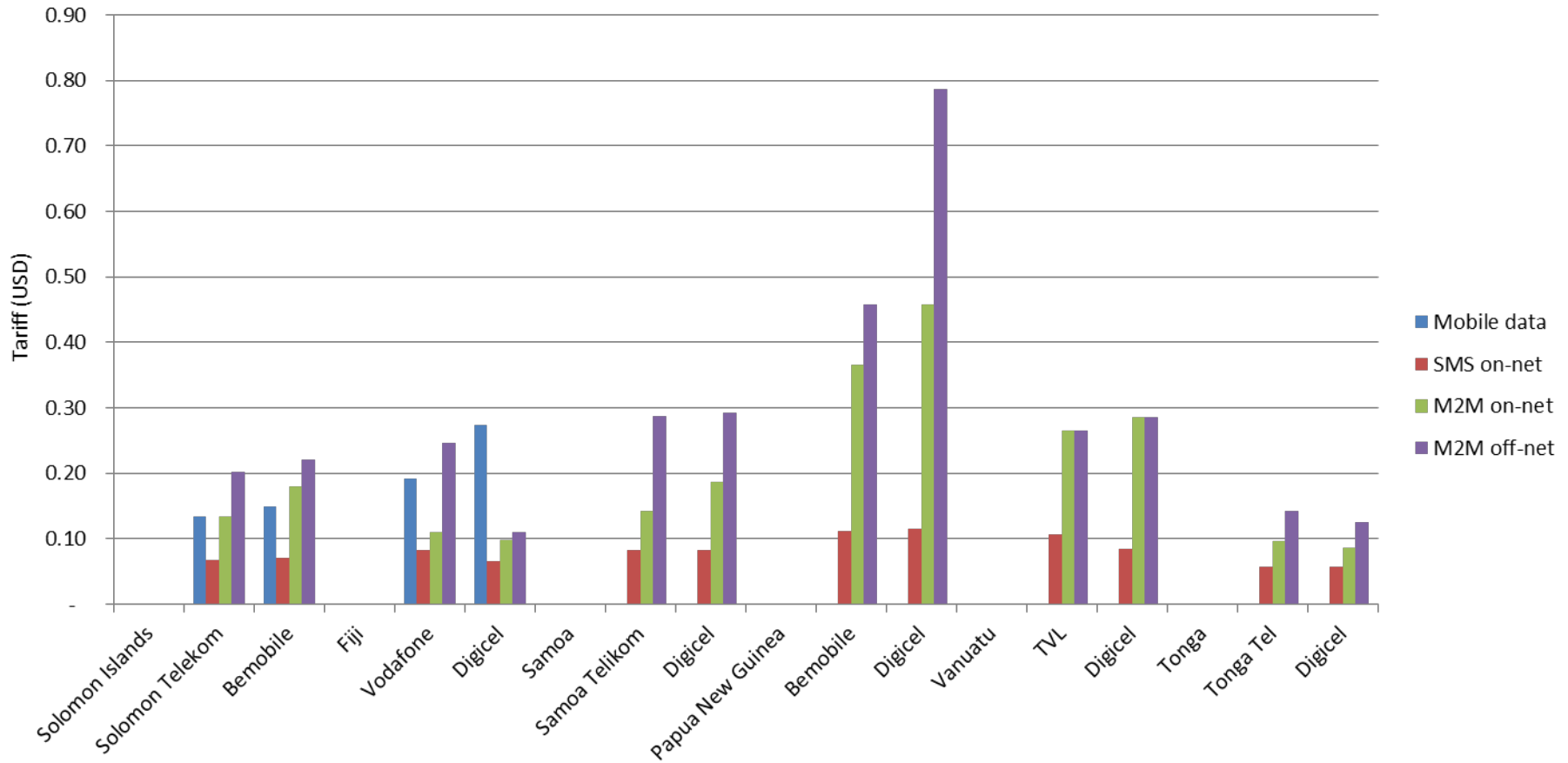
Downloads (MB)

Data Downloads (MB) Solomon Islands Telecom market
Mobile vs ADSL



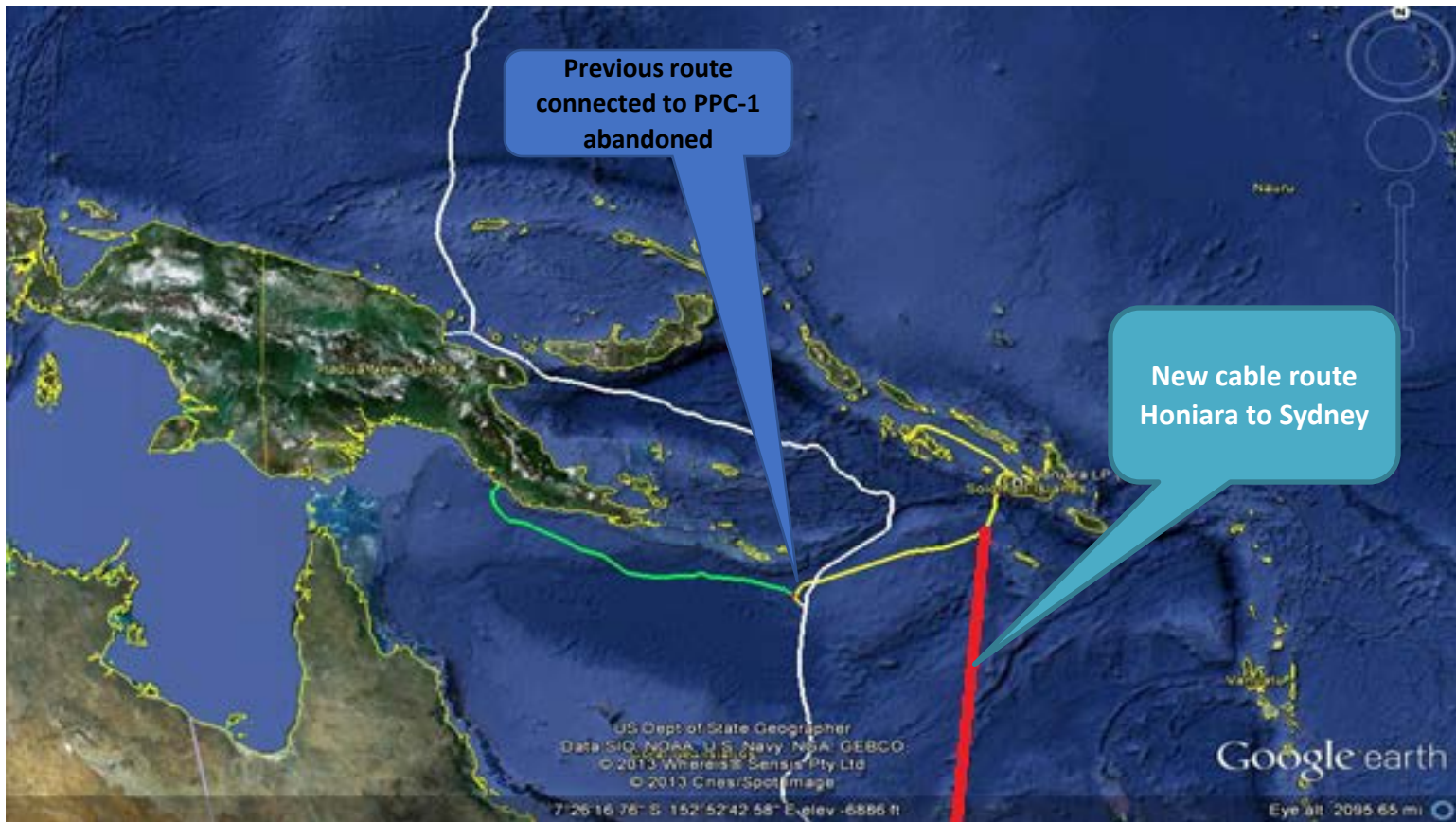
Tariffs

Regional tariff rates Dec 2013



Sub-marine cable

Route



Timetable

Solomon Oceanic Cable Company.

MoU and project kickoff	September 2013
New Route negotiations	December 2013
Financing	June 2014
Procurement	Mar 2015
Construction	July 2015

Broadcasting

- **Policy and License under Ministry of Communication and Aviation**
- **Television Act being reviewed for private sector competition**
- **Chairman of TV board – TCSI**
- **Free to air (ABC,BBC, TBN)**
- **Paid (sky pacific – solomon telekom), Satsol (re-broadcasting)**
- **SIBC, five FM station**
- **TV coverage – 5% of population**

Qualitative factors

Improvement in availability access and growth in telecom network, in-depth penetration and qualitative infrastructure is critical in these areas;

- **Cost**
- **Poor electricity supply**
- **Quality of Service**
- **Appropriate license fees**
- **Incentives/Taxation**
- **Human capacity building**

International/Roaming

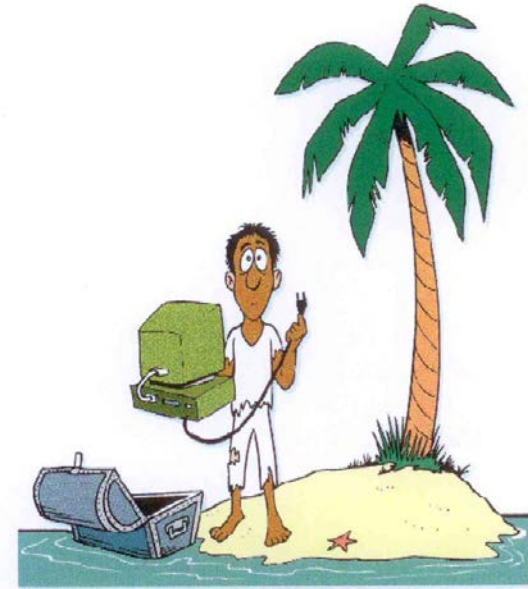
International bandwidth

- International gateway competition
- International roaming agreement
- Competition in ISP services (Class License issued by TCSI)
- Fiber optic-cable project (ADB/WB)



Challenges

- Uneven distribution of infrastructure
- Low population density in rural area
- Electricity
- Tax/duties on infrastructures & services
- Geography of Solomon Islands
- High cost of backhauling and rollout to rural areas
- Land access
- Political environment



Converged environment

- **Converging technologies**
- **Trend in regulatory regime of ICT**
- **Current obstacles:**
 - **Telecommunications – TCSI**
 - **ICT – ICTSU MoFT**
 - **Policy – Ministry of Communications & Aviation (MoCA)**
 - **Broadcasting – MoCA**
 - **No coordination**

Hapi Isles



Thank you

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