

Australia's perception of Chinese technology as a threat: Securing Pacific Island Countries subsea cables

Geopolitics



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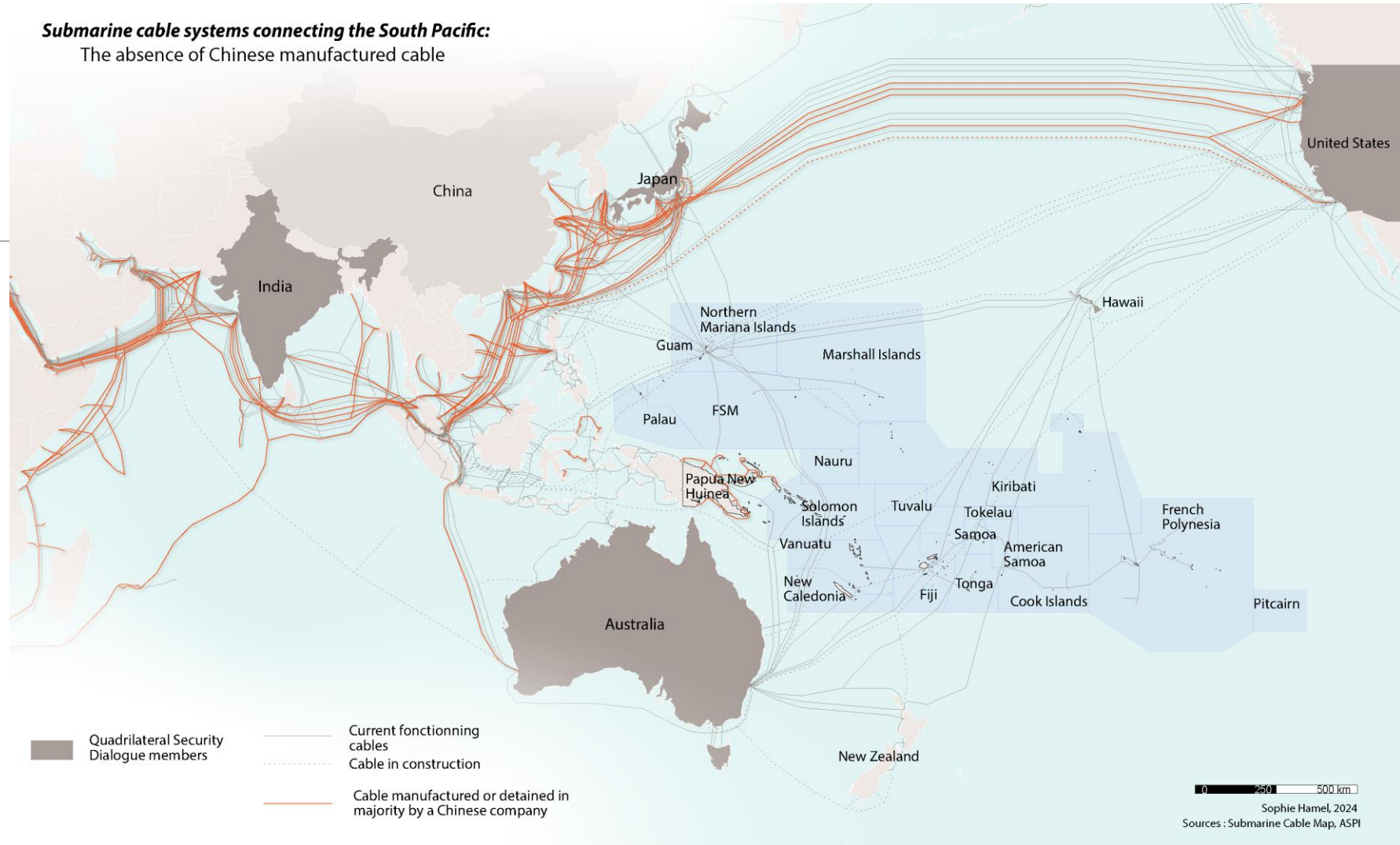
GEODE

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Intro

Submarine cable systems connecting the South Pacific:
The absence of Chinese manufactured cable

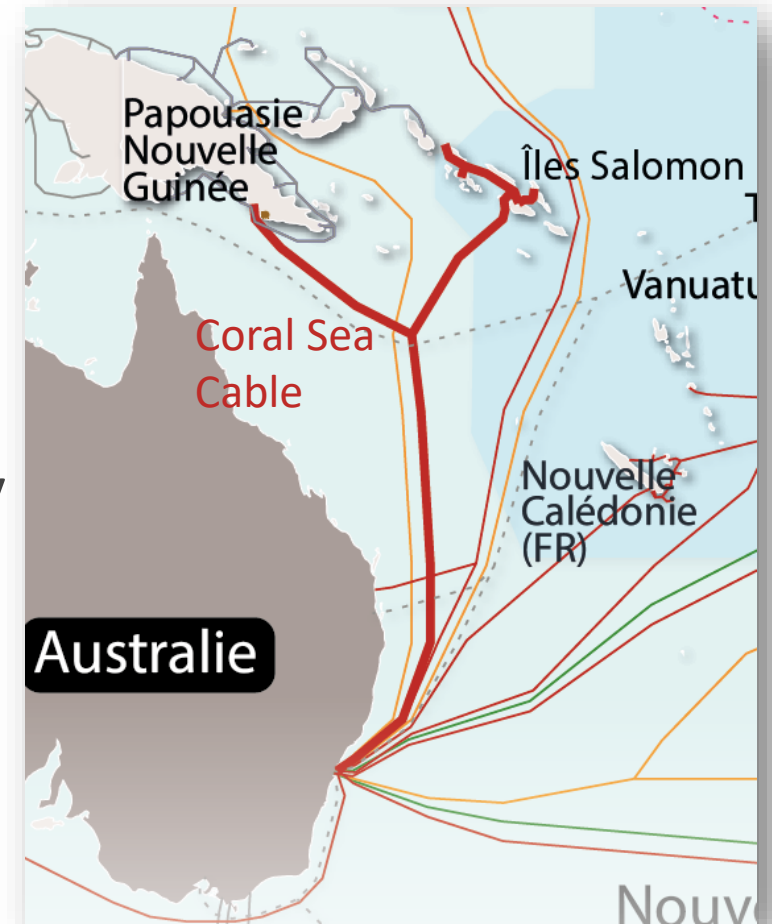


To what extent does Australian perception of Chinese technologies as a national and regional security threat influence the deployment of submarine cable networks in Pacific Island Countries?



Australia's distrust in Chinese tech

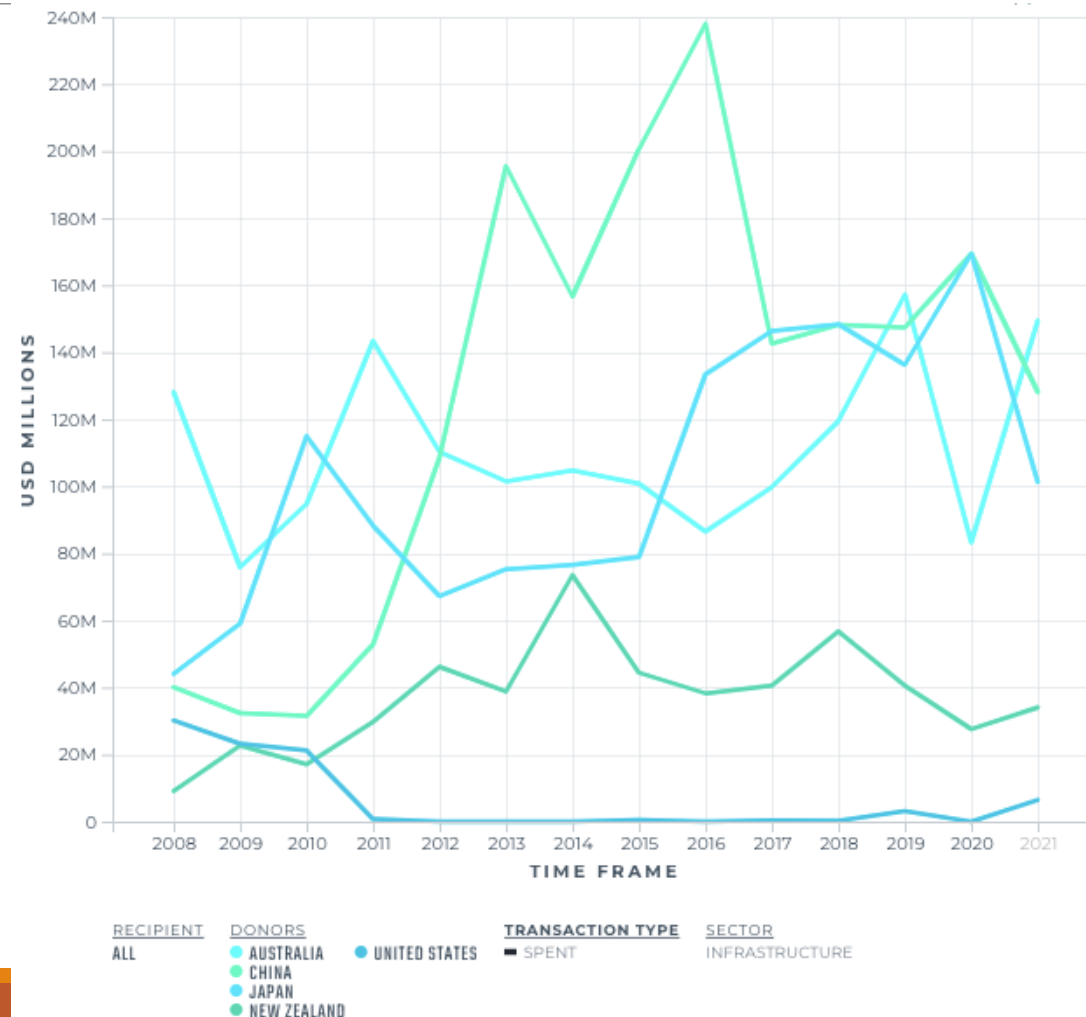
- 2011/12 : Huawei banned from the national broadband network (NBN)
- 2017 : Australia fund the Coral Sea cable to avoid a Huawei Marine cable to connect Sydney
- 2018 : Huawei and ZTE banned from the national 5G networks





Safeguarding PICs' digital infrastructure to protect Australia's security

- Extension of the *Belt and Road Initiative* (BRI) to Oceania in 2015
- Huawei Marine/HMN Tech showed interest to connect Australia and PICs
- PICs: the most important area for Australia's security
- Creation of the *Australian Infrastructure Financing Facility for the Pacific* (AIFFP) in 2019





The Indo-Pacific alliances and the PICs

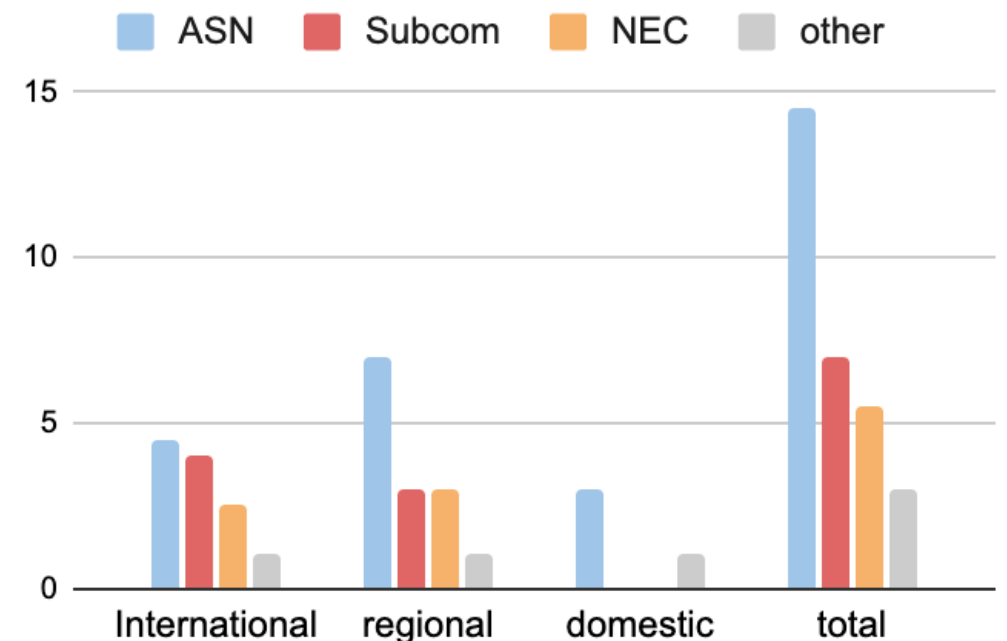
Trilateral Infrastructure Partnership for the Indo-Pacific (TIP) : Australia, US & Japan => Fund:

- Palau Cable
- East Micronesia Cable

Quadrilateral security dialogue (Quad)

- Partnership for Cable Connectivity and Resilience (May 2023)

South Pacific: Major Subsea Cable Suppliers





Australia: combining security and development aid for the Pacific

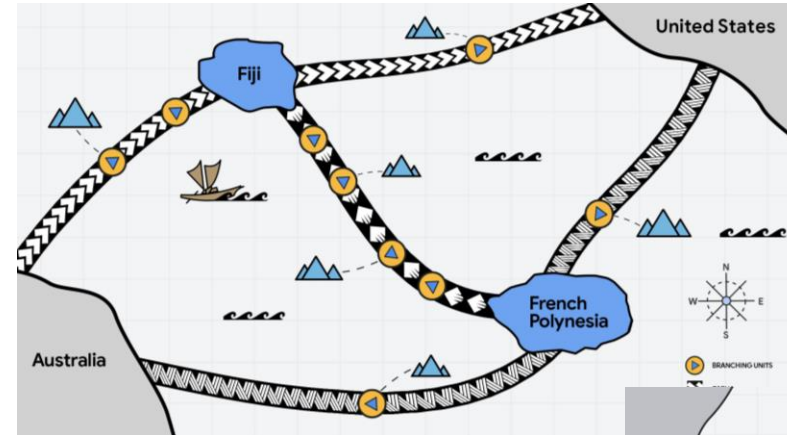
- Australian vision:
“good” connectivity in PICs = development = (cyber)security in PICs and Australia
- A support to the digital goals of the 2050 Blue Pacific Strategy
- Tech competition: an opportunity for PICs’ governments and companies ?
- A strategy that goes against the neutrality of PICs between China and the democratic and liberal bloc



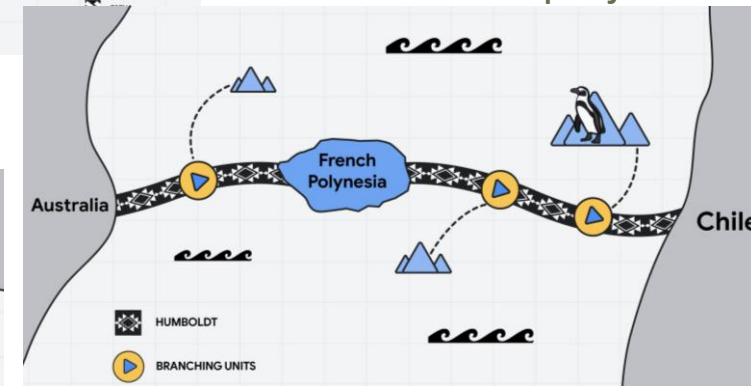
New projects to come

- Google : a new player in the South Pacific
- Australia : a growing secondary cable route between America and Asia
- Australia and US: Funding of branching units to connect PICs

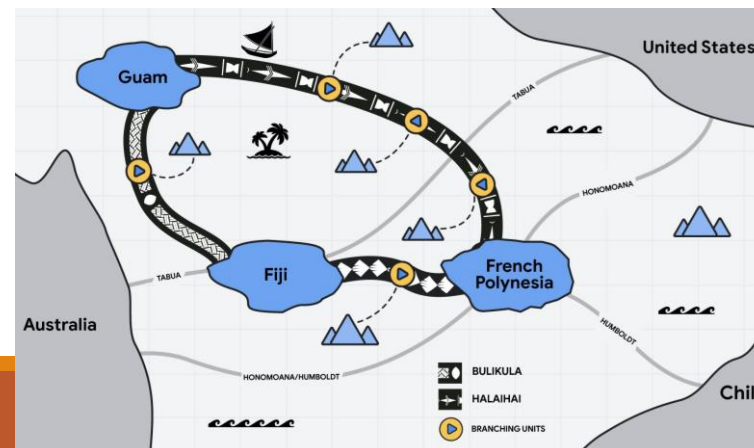
South Pacific Connect Initiative



Humboldt cable project



Bulikula & Halaihai subsea cables



Thank you

Feel free to contact me!
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