

# PTC

## Tackling the mobile investment gap in the Pacific Islands

PITA workshop on “Smart Blue Continent”, PTC’25  
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**09:00-10:30**

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HONOLULU, HI



PACIFIC  
TELECOMMUNICATIONS  
COUNCIL

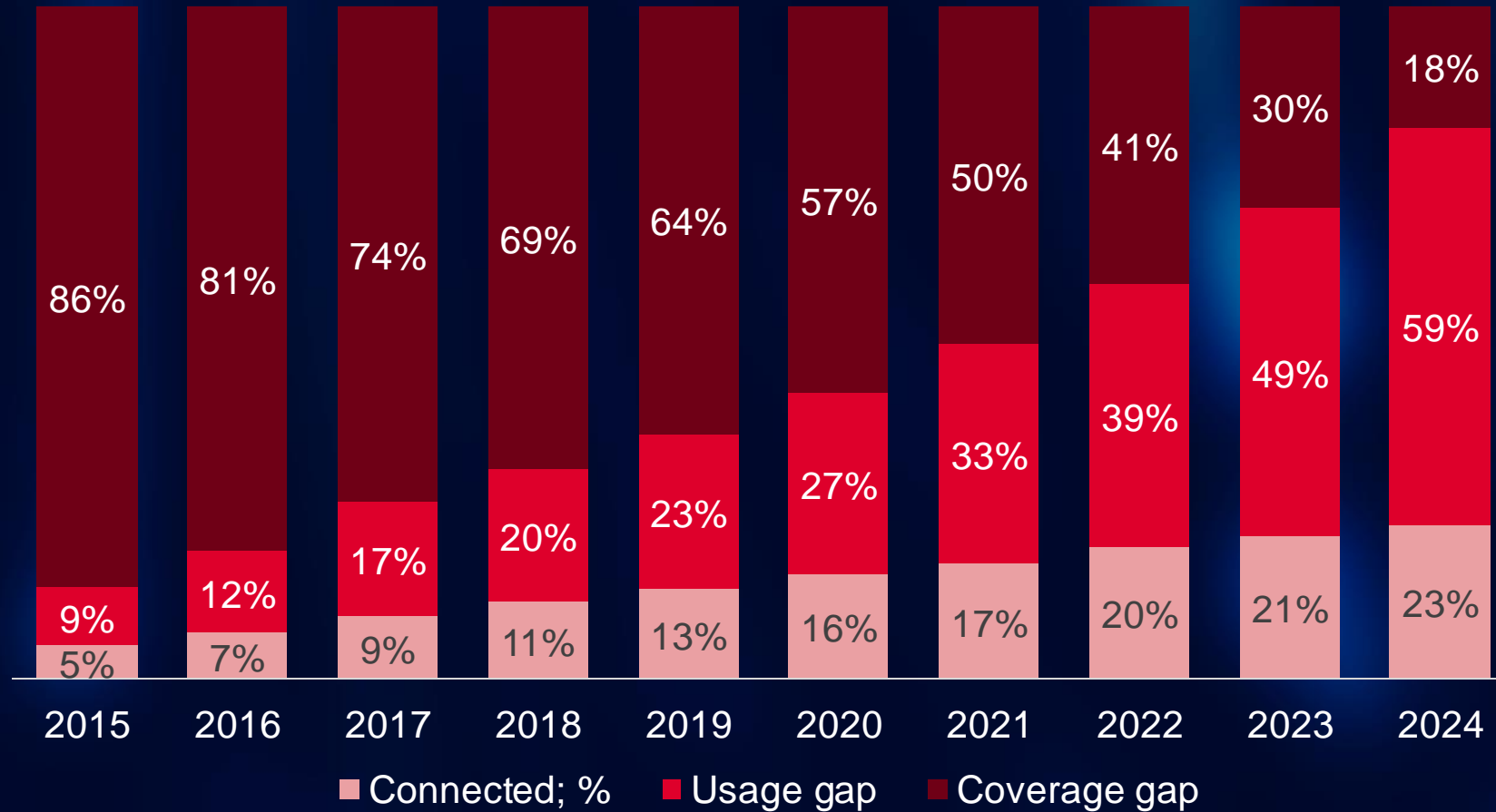
# ‘25

An aerial photograph of a tropical island archipelago, likely in Southeast Asia. The image shows numerous small, lush green islands scattered across clear, turquoise waters. Some islands have small settlements with buildings and roads. The water's color transitions from light blue near the shore to deeper blue further out. The overall scene is vibrant and scenic.

**Digital technologies are the  
foundation of digital nations**

# State of 4G+ connectivity in the Pacific Islands

Percentage of adult population



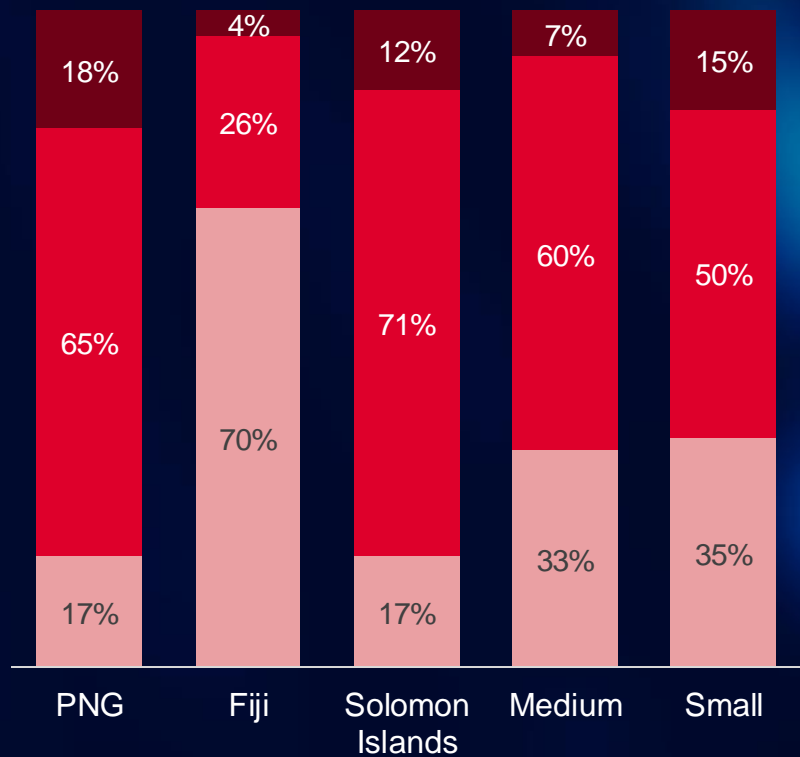
# State of 4G+ connectivity in the Pacific Islands

Percentage of adult population

## State of 4G+ connectivity in the Pacific Islands in 2024



## Breakdown of the state of 4G+ connectivity by island

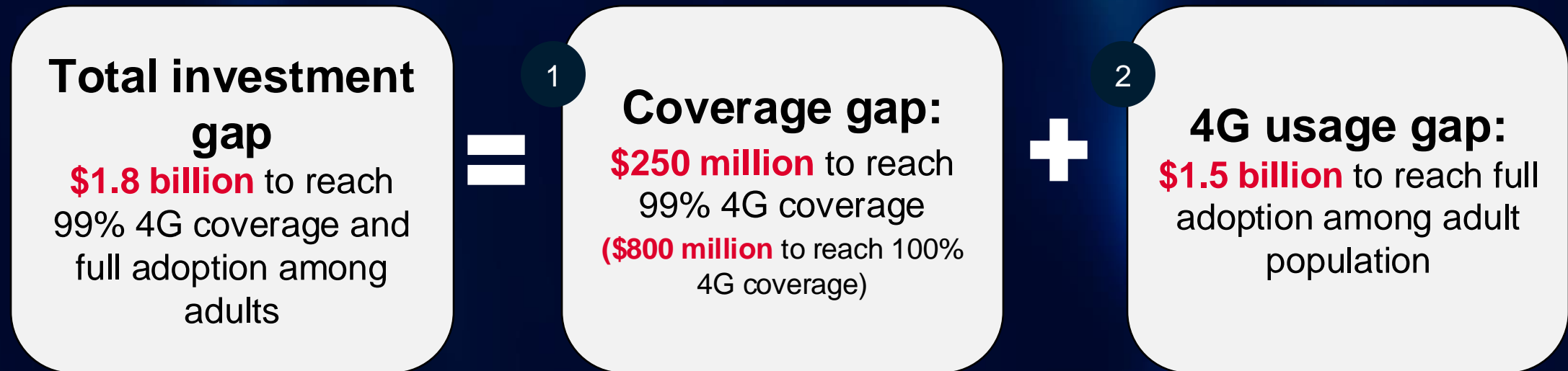


- Coverage gap
- Usage gap
- Connected

An aerial photograph of a city at sunset, with a complex blue network of lines and nodes overlaid on the scene, symbolizing connectivity. The sky is a mix of orange, red, and blue, and the city lights are visible in the foreground and middle ground.

Universal connectivity is  
only possible through  
**investment-friendly policies**

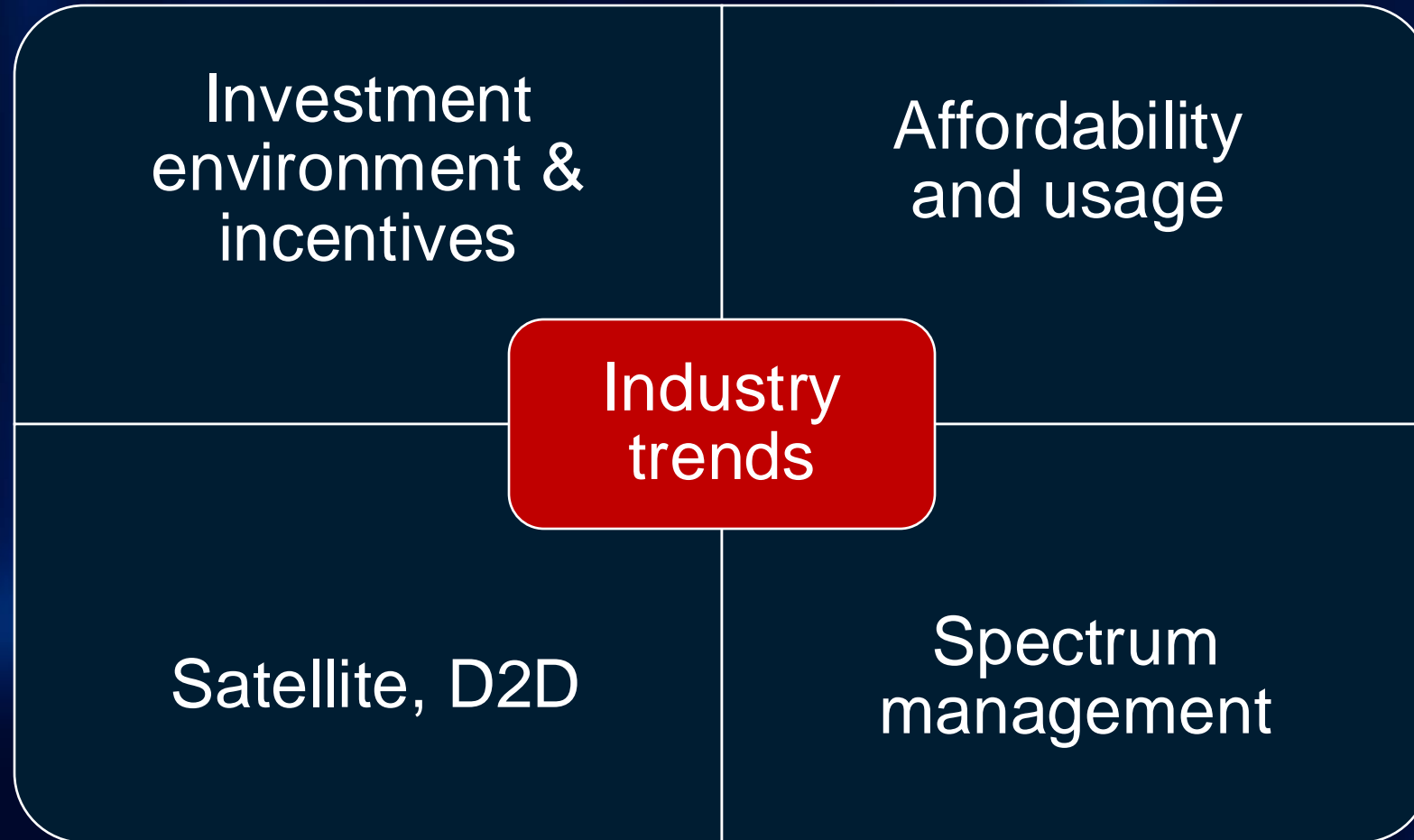
# Closing the Pacific Islands investment gap



Source: GSMA Intelligence

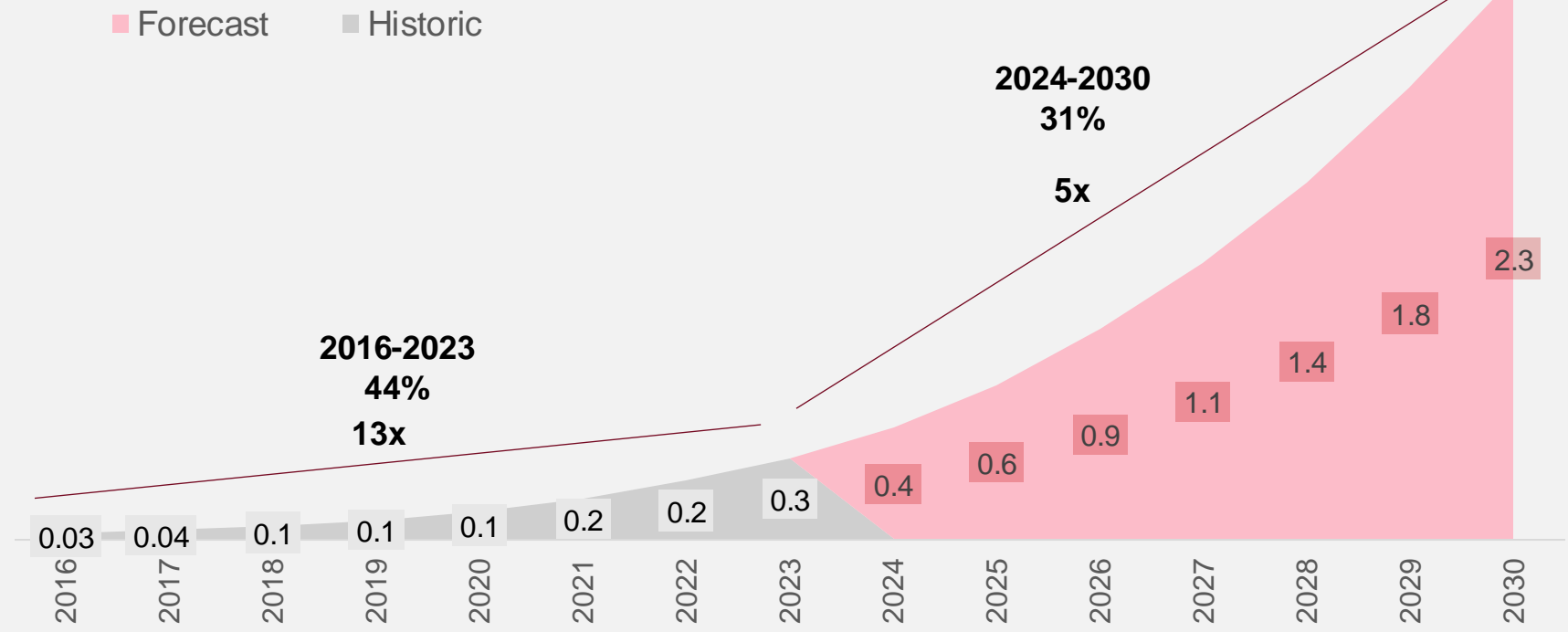
\* We define full adoption within adult population as equivalent to universal mobile broadband internet access. It assumes that the remaining population might not have access to a device due to their age; the target is aligned with ITU's objectives by 2030.

# Levers to address the investment gap and unlock the full potential of connectivity



# Mobile data traffic is growing

**Total mobile data traffic in Pacific Islands**  
Data traffic (EB), CAGR (%)



Source: GSMA Intelligence



# Modernising fiscal framework for the mobile sector

## Supply side reform:

- Eliminate/reduce sector specific fees and custom duties on equipment
- Review USF contribution
- Ensure reinvestment into mobile sector



## Demand side reform:

- Eliminate custom duties on devices
- Financing schemes/household subsidies to improve affordability and adoption
- Targeted exemption of VAT for low-income populations (devices and tariffs)

# Balanced spectrum pricing and licence conditions for sustainable investment

- Evaluate and adjust the real costs of licenses with particular attention to the evolution of the exchange rate and the long-term impacts on investment incentives, to avoid negative effects on the market and consumers.
- Consider coverage obligations as part of the total cost of spectrum to reflect the real value of the resource.
- Identify and assign idle spectrum to ensure its efficient use in the provision of mobile broadband services.
- Publish long-term spectrum roadmaps prioritising public welfare benefits over state revenues.



# Telco-satellite partnerships can help bridge coverage gaps but usage gaps remain...

18%

The coverage gap in Pacific Islands

59%

The usage gap in Pacific Islands

A photograph of two young women sitting outdoors in a park-like setting. The woman on the left is wearing a plaid shirt and is pointing at a smartphone held by the woman on the right. The woman on the right is wearing a white long-sleeved shirt and glasses, and is smiling broadly. A laptop is open on the woman on the right's lap. The background is a lush green park with trees and a building in the distance.

**Digital trust is key to  
thriving digital nations**

Together we can build a  
**sustainable digital future for all**

