

Increased optical cable capacity to NZ and US

Southern Cross Cable recently announced that it will be increasing its optical cable capacity. In late March Southern Cross lit up 260 Gbits of capacity on its two submarine fibre-optic cables that directly connect between Australia and New Zealand. This network further connects Australia to the US Internet via Hawaii. The company is targetting a completion of later in 2008 to reach a total installed capacity of 860Gbps.

Nortel, the vendor of the equipment to Southern Cross, developed the technology using a modulation technique that is widely used in RF data transmission. The technique, known as DP-QPSK, has been adapted by Nortel to the optical domain to encode data on four different planes of polarisation of the optical signal within the lightpath.