

MEDIA STATEMENT

28 February 2022

CopperString 2.0 and HyperOne - powerful partnership to lead the way and connect the North

A new strategic partnership to help future proof the nation is underway between two innovative Queensland companies – CopperString’s 1000km open access high voltage transmission network and HyperOne’s new 20,000km hyperscale digital backbone across Australia.

Representatives of CuString and HyperOne have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to work cooperatively on their major infrastructure project plans to transform the vital delivery of more affordable and reliable electricity with a critical upgrade to digital infrastructure to improve service delivery along the corridor from Woodstock near Townsville out to Mount Isa and North West Queensland.

CuString is proposing to construct a 1000km high-voltage electricity transmission network – CopperString - between Townsville and Mount Isa – which may extend west or south to other mining operations in the area. HyperOne is constructing a national fibre optic transmission cable system in Australia, connecting capital cities in each state and territory (H1 Network), and providing critical connectivity in regional areas including routes in northern and central Queensland.

CuString Managing Director Joseph O’Brien and HyperOne founder Bevan Slattery said the MOU was an agreement to work together and cooperate in good faith on these two iconic projects to explore initiatives and to progress the H1 Network and Copperstring, including the enhancement of opportunities for electrical and digital connectivity to be provided to businesses and residents along the corridor.

Mr O’Brien said the MOU recognises the synergies between the projects and the need to provide essential infrastructure upgrades for the region across this important region traversed by CopperString between Townsville and Mount Isa.. Analysis shows that when compared to Business as Usual in the North West, over the period out to 2050, CopperString’s NEM connection will support mining activity to increase by \$132 billion and sustain an estimated 3500 FTE jobs per year – this is so significant that the Australian and Queensland Governments have provided development funding to drive the project forward.

“CopperString is a transformational project to connect the North West Minerals Province with the National Electricity Market (NEM) near Townsville and deliver more affordable and reliable energy to the region. By doing so, we can harness the solar and wind resources and power the development of more critical minerals so important to the global transition to cleaner energy, electric vehicles, battery storage and advanced manufacturing. The current North West Power System is isolated from the NEM and is failing the region with its electricity supply unreliable and expensive,” Mr O’Brien said.

Mr Slattery said he was excited to be partnering with CopperString to support this important growth corridor. “CopperString is a transformational project that strongly aligns with one of HyperOne’s core objectives - breaking down the digital divide between our cities and our remote, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander populations and isolated communities,” Mr Slattery said.

“Lack of access to high-speed, reliable digital infrastructure is a major barrier to the development of industry and jobs in regional and remote areas, so too is the critical electricity network that CopperString is constructing.

“We are very excited to be exploring collaboration opportunities with Copperstring to bring vital digital and electrical connectivity to communities along this highly strategic route and promote the development of current and future industries in the region.”

Mr Slatter said HyperOne’s new 20,000km+ network is expected to generate more than 10,000+ jobs during construction and enable tens of thousands more jobs in future industries. HyperOne unlocks significant opportunities for investment in regional and remote communities that have historically lacked access to adequate digital infrastructure. HyperOne’s project will deliver world class infrastructure to these communities and place Australia on the map as the international hub of the Indo-Pacific region.

“HyperOne will be a critical piece of infrastructure, future proofing Australia’s internet infrastructure, providing greater accessibility and affordability to support our country’s growth and future industries. We want this critical infrastructure, built by Australia for Australia. We are prioritising local suppliers and content to deliver the project,” Mr Slattery said.

HyperOne is also committed to delivering a carbon-neutral hyperscale network. To achieve this we will use a variety of clean energy technologies (e.g. solar and wind).

CopperString project background: copperstring2.com.au

CopperString 2.0 is a 1000km high-voltage transmission network that will connect the people and communities of Mount Isa and the North West Minerals Province to the National Electricity Grid near Townsville. It will supply electricity to existing customers in north-west Queensland and deliver opportunities for new or expanded mines, manufacturing, renewable energy projects and hydrogen.

Analysis show significant economic benefits out to 2050 by building CopperString compared to BAU:

- Mining activity to increase by \$132 billion and sustain an estimated 3500 FTE jobs pa in the North West
- Queensland Gross State Product (GSP) will increase by \$130.7 billion in total
- Queensland Real Income (economic welfare) to increase by \$52 billion in total
- On a state-wide basis CopperString will reduce wholesale electricity prices and in the NWMP electricity costs are forecast to reduce 40% on average.

HyperOne Background: [Australia’s New Digital Highway - HyperOne](#)

HyperOne is Australia’s new \$1.5 billion, 20,000km+ hyperscale fibre optic network. The project will be the most complete national fibre backbone ever constructed and the first built in almost two decades, connecting all major data hubs in every capital city in every state and territory, and delivering better connectivity to regional and remote areas.

HyperOne will be a significant enabler of the future growth of our nation and our digital economy, capable of delivering more traffic than every other national backbone built in Australia’s history combined – carrying over 10,000 terabits per second. HyperOne will support future industries such as aerospace, AI/machine learning, cloud, satellite, defense, resources, agriculture and renewable energy as well as provide critical

backhaul transmission capacity to existing digital infrastructure and local distribution networks such as the National Broadband Network and mobile operators.

Beyond promoting significant regional development opportunities across the country facilitating critical digital connectivity, HyperOne through its international gateways via its subsea infrastructure and landings, creates an unprecedented opportunity for Australia to play a vital role as a leading digital hub in the indo pacific region.

HyperOne is committed to delivering a carbon-neutral hyperscale network. To achieve this we will utilise a variety of clean energy technologies. HyperOne is also committed to the project being built by Australians for Australians. We will also prioritise local suppliers, local materials and local workers to deliver the project, driving strong job creation at a critical time for our economy.

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