



## HyperOne backs Victorian manufacturing jobs with massive fibre purchase

**MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA, 14TH DECEMBER, 2021** – One of the biggest contracts for Australian-made fibre-optic cable ever has been secured by Victorian company AFL (Global) as HyperOne gears up to start construction.

HyperOne founder Bevan Slattery said the business had selected AFL to manufacture fibre at its Tottenham factory for the first two stages of its new 20,000km+ hyperscale high-speed national network.

“From the outset, we said we wanted to build a network that is made by Australians, for Australians - and having our cable manufactured by local workers here in Melbourne is a key part of that,” he said.

“Today is a significant milestone as we start manufacturing fibre to build the foundations of Australia’s first hyperscale network.

“This is a huge job . Just for these first two stages AFL Global will have to manufacture more than 400,000 km of glass that is enough to reach to the moon and back or around the world 10 times.

“HyperOne is the game-changer Australia needs to finally deliver the connectivity, higher speeds and coverage businesses and households need to turbo-charge our economy.”

Federal Minister for the Digital Economy, Senator Jane Hume, said today’s announcement was a great vote of confidence in Victorian’s manufacturing future and the jobs the industry generates.

“Australia’s manufacturing sector will lead the charge as our economy rebounds from Covid-19,” she said.

“The Morrison Government is backing Aussie manufacturing with our \$1.3b Modern Manufacturing Initiative, but we also need Australian businesses to support local suppliers whenever possible, and this is a great example of that.”

Ms Hume said HyperOne was also an important investment in Australia’s future economic growth and tech jobs.

“High quality infrastructure is one of the key components of our government’s Digital Economy Strategy. Projects like HyperOne will ultimately help us to grow the economy while

also creating more and better paying jobs.”

Victorian Minister for Industry Support and Recovery, Martin Pakula, said the HyperOne contract cemented Victoria's position as a manufacturing powerhouse.

“Our manufacturing industry is worth more than \$30 Billion to our state’s economy and our government is backing local businesses to build strong supply chains,” he said.

“The more products we make here in Victoria, the more jobs we create and keep here.

“HyperOne will ensure we create jobs now and into the future with better digital access for more Victorians particularly for those living in rural and remote areas of our state.”

AFL CEO Tony Dunstan said this was a proud day for the company and shows industry confidence in AFL and Victorian manufacturing.

“This is a very important piece of new infrastructure for Australia and we’re excited to start work on it using our quality Australian made products,” Mr Dunstan said.

“We are kicking off manufacturing today and this job will keep our machines running for the next 18 months. This is a massive contract for us and will enable us to have confidence to employ more staff and grow our business.

“It is great to see more Australian companies choosing Australian made goods over imports which means we don’t create local jobs.”

Mr Slattery said the first stage of the HyperOne network would deliver a critical upgrade to digital infrastructure between Australia’s two largest cities.

“Sydney and Melbourne are the two biggest centres for internet traffic and data storage and desperately need more capacity, which is what HyperOne will deliver,” Mr Slattery said.

“As our network expands to other capitals and regional Australia, having a direct connection to these two major hubs “Cloud Alley” will benefit connectivity across the country.”

**Further information: 0475 961 199**

Phase 1a stretches from Sydney to Canberra and Melbourne via the Blue Mountains, with subsequent stages to connect every Australian capital via 20,000km+ of hyperscale cable capable of transmitting more than 10,000 terabits per second.

“From the moment construction starts, it will be full steam ahead for us, ”

“We are one the largest fibre-cable manufacturing companies in the country

this contract would support xx jobs over the next 18 months.

FL CEO

“We’re thrilled to be working with Bevan and the HyperOne team to deliver this network for Australians.”

“This is a very important piece of new infrastructure for Australia and we’re excited to start work on it. From the moment construction starts, it will be full steam ahead for us, ”  
5DG/Underground Constructions spokesman said..

The construction of the network is expected to create more than 10,000 Australian jobs over the next two years.

Importantly for regional Australia, HyperOne will include more than 2,000 on and off ramps to allow many communities to access backhaul fibre infrastructure for the first time.

Mr Slattery said Australia’s existing fibre backbones, which are more than 20 years old, effectively bypassed many of the communities along their route, offering no way for people in regional areas to connect.

He said, in many cases, regional communities had backhaul fibre right under their feet but could not access, leaving them stuck with subpar broadband or satellite connections.

“HyperOne will give many communities access to high speed fibre connections for the first time. It will be a game changer for regional Australia. HyperOne will also open up international regions, enabling Australia as a digital hub in the Indo Pacific region.

He said HyperOne will also more than double the number of locations international undersea cables can land and interconnect in Australia, helping position Australia as a data centre hub for the Asia Pacific.

Critically, the network will also be the first fibre backbone in Australia to incorporate FiberSense capability, which will provide real-time awareness of the physical assets and any attempt to interfere with it, yielding an unparalleled level of security.

According to research from Deloitte Access Economics, the network is expected to deliver more than \$3b in direct economic benefits and contribute to \$22.6b in broader economic gains - much of that in regional areas.

It will help support the digitisation and growth of traditional industries like agriculture and resources while, along with growing industries like space technologies and cloud computing.

Separately, HyperOne can reveal it is also in advanced discussions over the next stage of Phase 1a, a submarine cable from Melbourne to Perth.

Mr Slattery said HyperOne would help unlock regional economies and keep the nation's data secure.

He said the signing of the partnership agreement was a major milestone for the new network.

"We're absolutely thrilled to be starting construction on this network. It's a credit to the hard work of everyone involved that we've gone from announcing this project to getting shovels in the ground in less than 11 months."

"This is a great example of what HyperOne is about - we're partnering with another Australian company to create Australian jobs on a project that will ultimately mean greater connectivity for households and greater economic opportunities for regional communities," he said.

"Today's announcements mean HyperOne will be a truly Australian made network - manufactured, constructed and owned by Australians."

HyperOne can also announce it has been finalising consortium between 5DG/Underground Construction to deliver Phase 1a of this nation-building project.

Under the agreement, work will start on the project by the end of this month, with Phase 1a expected to be completed by late 2022.

### **Media Enquiries**

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### **About 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.

HyperOne will break down the digital divide between our cities and our remote, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander populations and isolated communities. 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. By providing valuable off ramps to deliver critical digital infrastructure and connectivity we will open up opportunities in these underserved communities.

The project provides critical infrastructure of not only national and but also international significance. It will more than double the number of locations international undersea cables can land and interconnect in Australia, creating an unprecedented opportunity for Australia to cement its position as a secure, stable and capable interconnection point in the greater Asian 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.