



## **EXCLUSIVE MEDIA RELEASE**

# **HYPERONE BACKS VICTORIAN COMPANY AND REGIONAL TECH JOBS**

MELBOURNE, 7 MARCH, 2022 - Australian telecommunications company HyperOne today announced a regional Victorian business had secured a multi-million dollar contract to start constructing the new national fibre network.

The Rochester headquartered company UGC-5DG will build one of two legs between Melbourne and Sydney on the \$1.5 Billion national fibre network - the largest privately funded digital infrastructure project in Australian history.

In total, more than 1,000 kms of new fibre is being delivered via UGC-5DG, improving connectivity between the two cities and creating more than 200 new access points for regional communities along the route.

Victorian Minister for Digital Economy, Jaala Pulford, said HyperOne will bring more than a thousand jobs to Victoria.

“Our government has been working hard to grow our digital economy because we know it creates jobs for Victorians right across our state,” she said.

Minister for Industry Support and Recovery Martin Pakula said this major contract to improve connectivity in regional Victoria will deliver a boost to local manufacturing.

“Cable for this network is being manufactured in Victoria and that means more local jobs,” he said

“Victoria is Australia’s leading manufacturing state and these major projects deliver important opportunities for Victorian-based businesses and workers.”

HyperOne Founder Bevan Slattery said the company had made the decision up front to support Australian businesses and workers to build our country’s digital infrastructure skills.

“Our focus has always been on delivering a new digital backbone, built by Australians for Australians - and this contract with UGC-5DG reflects our commitment to Aussie jobs,” he said.

“With our new network we will improve the reliability and quality of connectivity across Australia especially in regional, rural and remote communities who have been left behind.

“We also want to deliver the jobs and training opportunities for more Australian workers to gain employment in the digital economy especially in telecommunications infrastructure.”

Mr Slattery said HyperOne had selected a highly experienced partner in UGC-5DG.

“We are excited to be partnering with UGC-5DG on the delivery of these first segments. UGC-5DG brings a tremendous amount of experience having built some of the most significant telecommunications projects over the last 20 years.”

UGC-5DG Project Director, Ric Oldham, said the consortium will partner with local communities to source skilled people for the project.

“We will be looking to create local jobs for local workers, across the route, spreading the benefits of this project across regional communities,” he said.

“UGC-5DG will also engage with local Indigenous suppliers for construction capability and to assist with the environmental oversight in regional and rural areas.”

HyperOne will connect every Australian capital city via a 20,000km network capable of transmitting up to 10,000 terrabits per second - more than every other digital backbone in Australian history combined.

The network will also provide many regional communities with direct access to backhaul fibre for the first time, via more than 2,000 on and off ramps across the country.

Research from Deloitte Access Economics<sup>1</sup> shows the network will unlock more than \$22b a year in economic gains, supporting the growth of existing industries like agriculture and resources and the development of emerging industries including data centres, low earth orbit satellite ground stations and artificial intelligence.

### **Further information:**

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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

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<sup>1</sup> Economic Impact of HyperOne, Deloitte Access Economics, June 2021

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.