

# MEDIA RELEASE

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## American Samoa Launches *Le Vasa* Cable

**Pago Pago, American Samoa (January 15, 2026)**

Pago Pago, American Samoa — The American Samoa Government (ASG), under the leadership of the newly elected Pula and Pulu Administration — The Honorable Governor Pulaalii Nikolao Pula and The Honorable Lt. Governor Pulumataala Ae Ae Jr., — proudly announces it is joining the [Pacific Connect initiative](#). This strategic collaboration with Google through Pacific Connect marks a transformative step toward strengthening American Samoa's digital infrastructure, resilience, and global connectivity.

At the heart of this initiative is ***Le Vasa*** cable, an independent next-generation subsea fiber-optic system, which will interconnect with the [Bulikula cable](#) with connections to Fiji and French Polynesia. By leveraging existing construction operations in the region for Bulikula, American Samoa will benefit from reduced costs and accelerated installation timelines.

***Le Vasa***, meaning "The Ocean" or "The Vast Sea," holds deep cultural significance to the American Samoan people. Once a highway for trade and connection across the Pacific, it now symbolizes a modern voyage — carrying information, innovation, and opportunity across the digital seas.

***Le Vasa*** cable is more than infrastructure; it reflects our identity. We are rooted in voyaging, resilience, and are deeply connected to our waters. Our ancestors once navigated ***Le Vasa*** guided



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by stars and instinct. Today, we navigate the digital ocean guided by vision and purpose. This cable honors that legacy while opening new pathways.

**Le Vasa** cable will help enable the delivery of secure, high-speed, affordable internet, and greater network resiliency, even during natural disasters and in times of emergencies. This project also aligns with federal priorities to expand broadband access in underserved and unserved communities.

While multiple funding sources are anticipated, the American Samoa Government has confirmed it will receive funds from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to support the development of **Le Vasa** to diversify and strengthen the economy of American Samoa and other nations in the region.

“Together with Google, it is a historic step in securing a connected future for the people of American Samoa,” said Governor Pulaalii. “Our Administration is committed to economic advancement, and this project strengthens our strategic role in the Pacific while ensuring future generations benefit from the **Le Vasa** cable project.”

“I’m excited to see our close collaboration with American Samoa and ASTCA come to fruition with the **Le Vasa** cable,” said Brian Quigley, VP, Global Network Infrastructure, Google Cloud. “**Le Vasa** will establish a foundation for long-term economic diversification and growth, and it will strengthen redundancy, expand economic opportunity, and bridge the digital divide between the Pacific and the United States.”

The American Samoa Telecommunications Authority (ASTCA) is the official contractual party and project coordinator for this major infrastructure investment. As the implementing agency, ASTCA will own and operate **Le Vasa** and lead its integration into the Territory’s existing telecom infrastructure, manage landing points, coordinate with global partners, and align with global technical standards. Through technical collaboration with ASTCA, Google optimized the Bulikula cable path to route closer to the Territory and accelerate **Le Vasa’s** delivery timeline, establishing a high-capacity pathway that will strengthen resilience in the region and drive economic diversification.

“The Board is proud to support the American Samoa Government in this groundbreaking endeavor,” said Avamua Dave Haleck, Chairman of the ASTCA Board of Directors. “Connectivity is not just about speed. It is about access and secure access. We commend the Pula and Pulu Administration, and our dedicated ASTCA team for bringing this vision to life.”



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Once completed, the ***Le Vasa***'s interconnection with the Bulikula cable system will position American Samoa within a robust Pacific communications network. It will strengthen redundancy, expand opportunity, and bridge the digital divide between the Pacific and the United States. From remote education to telehealth and digital entrepreneurship enabled by cloud computing, ***Le Vasa*** establishes a foundation for long-term digital equity and regional leadership in connectivity.



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