



NEWS

W&G Assists OPT in Obtaining Unprecedented FCC Waiver, Paving Way for High-Speed Internet Connectivity in French Polynesia

WASHINGTON, D.C., April 12, 2010 –

Wiltshire & Grannis LLP (“W&G”) assisted client Office des Postes et télécommunications de Polynésie française (“OPT”)—the incumbent carrier in French Polynesia—in obtaining an unprecedented waiver of the structural separation requirement for international common carriers imposed by the Federal Communications Commission (“FCC”). With this waiver, OPT can now move toward the completion and commercial activation of Honotua, a high-speed fiber-optic undersea cable system connecting French Polynesia to Hawaii. Honotua will allow OPT to offer the first high-speed Internet access in French Polynesia.

In an order dated April 12, 2010, the FCC's International Bureau found that the unique circumstances of OPT under French Polynesia law warranted a waiver of the FCC's separate subsidiary requirement for international common carriers. According to the International Bureau, “OPT has demonstrated good cause to waive the separate subsidiary requirement in this case” as “OPT faces unique circumstances in that the French Polynesian regulatory body, the CTC, has ruled that OPT is legally incapable of creating a separate subsidiary.” In granting the waiver, the International Bureau adopted alternative safeguards proposed by OPT. The FCC is expected to issue licenses following OPT's completion of the Executive Branch's national security review.

W&G partner Kent Bressie led W&G's team in representing OPT. W&G regularly represents undersea cable operators, carriers, and infrastructure suppliers in all aspects of their businesses, including communications and environmental permitting, market access and foreign investment, national security and law enforcement, export controls and economic sanctions, and treaty/law of the sea matters.

A copy of the FCC's order may be found at :

www.fcc.gov/Daily_Releases/Daily_Business/2010/db0412/DA-10-625A1.pdf

More information about W&G's undersea cables practice may be found at:

www.wiltshiregrannis.com/underseacables

More information about Mr. Bressie may be found at

www.wiltshiregrannis.com/bressie