



International Cable Protection Committee Ltd.

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General Manager: Mr. Ryan Wopschall

Reference: Formal Invitation to Join the ICPC

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing to you as the General Manager of the [International Cable Protection Committee \(ICPC\)](http://www.iscpc.org) a non-profit organisation registered in Great Britain, with an invitation to join the ICPC.

The ICPC was formed in 1958 with the primary goal to promote the safeguarding of international submarine cables against human-made and natural hazards. The organisation provides a forum for the exchange of technical, legal, and environmental information about submarine cables.

Our current industry Members represent more than **235 Member organisations** from over **70 countries** and are responsible for **98% of international submarine telecommunications cables**, most of the cable ships that lay and maintain them, and a significant proportion of submarine power cables, making the ICPC the world's premier submarine cable industry association. A current list of ICPC Member organisations can be found [here](#).

In 2010, we amended our membership rules to allow national governments and public agencies the opportunity to join the ICPC. We have done this in recognition of the fact that industry and governments need to work together to ensure the protection and security of the world's submarine communications infrastructure, and to maximise the protections of the United Nations Law of the Sea Convention (UNCLOS) that is the legal bedrock for the expansion, maintenance, and modernisation of the subsea cable network. To date, Australia, Bermuda, Cayman Islands, India, Indonesia, France, Malta, The Netherlands, Singapore and United Kingdom, have become Government Observer Members. Their participation has strengthened security and cooperation among industry and governments impressively.

In 2018, we obtained consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council. This new status allows the ICPC to participate in law of the sea meetings and intergovernmental conferences in its own name, on behalf of the international submarine cable community.

The ICPC solidly trusts that conversation between industry and governments will enable improvement in fault rates, repair times, connectivity, and attractiveness for submarine cables. This trust is reflected in the following paragraphs of the 2018 Omnibus Resolution on Oceans and the Law of the Sea of General Assembly of the United Nations:

Recognising that fibre optic submarine cables transmit most of the world's data and communications and, hence, are vitally important to the global economy and the national security of all States, conscious that these cables are susceptible to intentional and accidental damage from shipping and other activities, and that the maintenance, including the repair, of

these cables is important, noting that these matters have been brought to the attention of States at various workshops and seminars, and conscious of the need for States to adopt national laws and regulations to protect submarine cables and render their wilful damage or damage by culpable negligence punishable offences, [...]

Encourages greater dialogue and cooperation through workshops and seminars among States and the relevant regional and global organizations on the protection and maintenance of fibre optic submarine cables to promote the security of such critical communications infrastructure [.]

The ICPC facilitates the type of cooperation that the General Assembly of the United Nations encourages: among other activities, we organise discussions on topic relevant to submarine cables during workshops, seminars, and plenary meetings, and we foster a growing exchange of data and information among ICPC Members. By joining the ICPC, Government Members gain a privileged access to unique public-private dialogue opportunities, timely information, and unpublished databases. They become part of a global network of diverse actors that are brought together by the common goal of enhancing the protection and security of the world's submarine cables.

To learn more about the ICPC and its outreach activities, please visit its [achievements](#) and informational [video](#) pages. As well, you may also read ICPC [news releases](#) including information regarding the launch of 'Government Best Practices for Protecting and Promoting Resilience of Submarine Telecommunications Cables'—a [document](#) to assist governments in developing laws, policies, and practices to foster the development and protection of submarine telecommunications cables, the infrastructure of the internet.

In anticipation of interest in joining the ICPC, please contact me via e-mail at: icpcgm@iscpc.org for further information or enquiries.

Sincerely,

[Ryan Wopschall](#)

ICPC General Manager

Sharing the seabed and oceans in harmony

Non-profit organisation

Registered in England No. 5344353

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