

Press announcement



Actual Seacable Map 2013

authored by seim & partner

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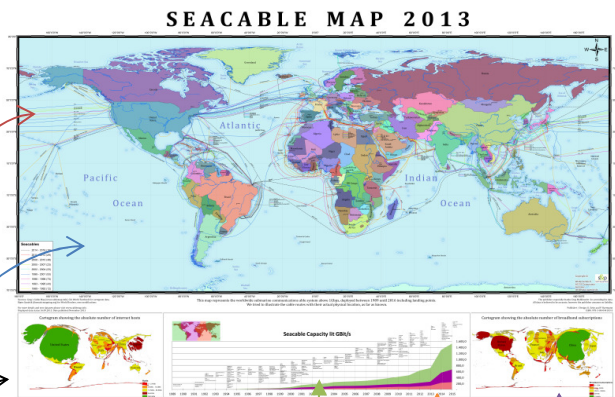
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1 New Seacable Map by s&p



seim & partner have compiled in collaboration with Greg Mahlknecht a comprehensive map of all 263 operational and planned telecommunication sea cables in the world (<http://www.cablemap.info/>).

The map shows all currently operational seacable undersea cable systems above 1Gbps transmission capacity, which have entered into service since 1989, as well as all planned systems up to 2016.

Furthermore the map shows the starting year of operations and the increases in available capacity over time. Detailed insets show the number of internet users per country as well as the number of active internet hosts.

Summing up:

- world map based on the latest world map version from the World Geodetic System
- 263 cable systems (where info is available) with their real (not idealized) cable routes
- timeline with year of start of operation
- summarized representation of the development of capacities, separately shown for the Atlantic, the Mediterranean Sea and Indian Ocean, as well as the Pacific
- anamorphic world map representing number of internet users per country
- anamorphic world map representing number of internet hosts per country
- Authors: Kai Seim, Philip Hartmann
- Sources: Greg's cable map (www.cablemap.info), CIA World Factbook
- Poster in A0 format
- ISBN: 978-3-00-044103-5

The map is available for €49.90 plus postage and VAT at seim & partner. Company discounts for orders above 10 copies possible on request.

Orders either via mail: info@seim-partner.de or via phone: +49 6128 609 22 69.

2 Why this map?

There are several answers to this question:

1. "Just because!" Everybody needs a seacable map! And because everybody needs it, but there is not currently one available for an affordable price, we made it ourselves.
2. "Because it's fun to do 'absurd things,' and you learn things in the process."
3. Because we were inspired by Christian Holtdorf's "The first wire to the New World – The laying of the transatlantic telegraph cable"¹.

The final catalyst for producing the map came when reading the Holtdorf book, which describes the laying of the first transatlantic cable 1858 by Cyrus W. Field from a number of different perspectives (construction of space, paradoxes of acceleration, economy and globalization, history of oceanography and electrical engineering etc.). The reading inspired memories of our former professional lives. Seacables are vastly important, yet an up-to-date affordable map is hard to find. This led to the decision to produce a useful map ourselves.

We aim to depict all operational seacable systems with a capacity above 1 Gbps. For our source information, we were granted access to the data of Greg Mahlknecht (for details visit www.cablemap.info), which allowed us to show actual cable routes, as far as data is available. The ready for service date is depicted in the coloring of the cable systems. On the other side we developed a time bar, showing all systems per year of first operation including additional capacity.

A revelation to us was the massive increase in capacity in the Pacific, Mediterranean Sea, and Indian Ocean compared to the year 2000. At that point in time the capacity was almost uniformly distributed. But today the increase in capacity is clearly driven by the traffic growth in Asia and the connections to the US and Europe as well. The Atlantic routes pale in comparison.

For details regarding the individual cable systems we refer you to the respective websites of the operators and to Greg's website www.cablemap.info.

Both anamorphic maps support our thesis, that in Asia "all hell was let loose". They present countries in anamorphic format using a weight function based on the number of internet subscribers and the number of internet hosts respectively (here industrialized countries still "lead"). The Data is taken from (www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook) the CIA World Factbook.

¹ Original citation: Christian Holtdorf; Der erste Draht zur Neuen Welt – Die Verlegung des transatlantischen Telegrafenkabels, Wallstein Verlag Göttingen, 2013