

### Point-by-Point Response to Community Comment 3

We thank Laurent Foulonneau at Pacific Peering for the valuable additional commentary on the manuscript. The comments are reproduced below in blue Arial fonts, with our responses and indications of how we have revised the manuscript indicated in black.

Dear authors,

As a follow-up to our previous community comment (CC2), we would like to draw attention to an additional technical point that we believe is important for readers to understand correctly.

Throughout the manuscript, the CC-Node positions are treated as fixed and established reference locations — most explicitly through the designation of a target location at (18.782°S, 168.2°E) for sensor 2, which serves as the basis for all seismic and tsunami waveform modeling (line 187: *“Dynamic ground motions are computed at a target location (18.782°S, 168.2°E), which is planned for sensor 2 on the Tamtam SMART cable”*), and from which operational conclusions are directly drawn (line 315: *“At least one SMART sensor will be located within the tsunami source regions of subevents A through C”*). At no point does the manuscript acknowledge that these coordinates represent a preliminary and theoretical cable route.

We have stated in Section 1 (Introduction) that “The Tamtam submarine cable route is still preliminary and subject to revision at the design stage after the marine survey” and added “preliminary” as a descriptor whenever the cable route or sensor locations are mentioned. Terms like “at sensor 2” have been changed to “near sensor 2” to emphasize the location being approximate.

We would also like to ask the authors to clarify the sources from which the CC-Node positions used in this manuscript were obtained. As the operator of the TamTam SMART cable project, Pacific Peering has not been consulted regarding the use of any positional data in this manuscript, and we are not aware of any publicly available source from which these coordinates could have been legitimately derived.

The preliminary CC-node locations were provided by Ifremer at the UNESCO-IOC 2024 meeting in Port Vila, Vanuatu and were subsequently published in a UNESCO-IOC 2025 report, which is publicly available online (<https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000392442.locale=en>). We have cited the report as the source of the preliminary CC-node locations.

Furthermore, the positions of the CC-Nodes have already been subject to revision based on cable risk assessment and technological constraints. As of the date of this comment, the marine survey has not yet taken place and the Route Position List (RPL), which will define the final CC-Node positions, has not yet been established. The actual sensor positions are therefore currently unknown, and will potentially be refined again once the marine survey and route design process are completed.

As noted above, we have added language to clarify that these locations are preliminary and notional at this point in time.

We therefore suggest that the publication of this manuscript be delayed until the final CC-Node positions have been confirmed. Positional information will be made available in due course by Ifremer, which leads and manages the scientific aspects of the TamTam SMART cable project.

The analysis and conclusions of this scientific paper do not rely on the exact locations of the CC-Nodes. As already pointed out in the paper, the modeled seismic and tsunami waveforms do not vary appreciably among the four preliminary node locations and therefore only one location is considered. The results are pertinent and important to disseminate to the community in advance of the Tamtam installation. We therefore disagree strongly with the commenter that this concern should delay the publication of this manuscript in any way.