



## GOVERNMENT OF NIUE

MEDIA RELEASE

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### GOVERNMENT OF NIUE EXTENDS ITS MARITIME VHF NETWORK

**Alofi, Niue – 02 May 2024** - The Government of Niue today launched a major extension to its maritime VHF network. Niue now has island-wide VHF coverage, reaching out to 12 nautical miles offshore.

The Minister of Infrastructure Honourable Crossley Tatui said the extension of this network was a significant and important project for maritime safety in Niue.

“The extended network will establish a highly valuable service at community, government and international levels.”



This network will make Niue’s waters safer for Niue’s fishers, boat operators and tourists by providing all marine users with a reliable platform for making distress calls and sharing information. The network will also provide an effective communications platform for Niue Police and other government agencies. It will help provide border agencies with early indication of the approach of visiting vessels.

At the international level, Niue is a party to the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS), under the International Maritime Organization (IMO). The network helps Niue comply with international emergency communications requirements set by the IMO.

Infratel Networks Limited, a New Zealand company, completed the extension – installing equipment on three existing telecommunication towers at Kaho, Sekena and Lakepa.

Maritime VHF Channel 16 is the international distress channel. Telecom Niue Limited runs a 24/7 watch of Niue Marine Radio, recording trip reports, responding to distress calls and providing information as required.

Hon Tatui acknowledged the Government of New Zealand for funding the extension to the network and Maritime New Zealand for their technical expertise.

Niue government agencies involved in the project were the Department of Transport, Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Niue Police, Telecom Niue Limited and the Broadcasting Corporation of Niue.

“This project aligns with our Niue National Strategic Plan 2016-2026 to provide and maintain safe, secure and reliable transport infrastructure and services at international standards and to be prepared to respond to national disasters and emergencies,” said Hon Tatui.

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