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ITU-T

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OF ITU

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SERIES G: TRANSMISSION SYSTEMS AND MEDIA,
DIGITAL SYSTEMS AND NETWORKS

Digital transmission systems – Digital sections and digital
line system – Optical fibre submarine cable systems

**General features of optical fibre submarine
cable systems**

ITU-T Recommendation G.971

(Previously CCITT Recommendation)

ITU-T G-SERIES RECOMMENDATIONS
TRANSMISSION SYSTEMS AND MEDIA, DIGITAL SYSTEMS AND NETWORKS

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ITU-T RECOMMENDATION G.971

GENERAL FEATURES OF OPTICAL FIBRE SUBMARINE CABLE SYSTEMS

Summary

This Recommendation applies to optical fibre submarine cable systems. The purpose of this Recommendation is to identify the main features of optical fibre submarine cable systems, and to provide generic information on relevant Recommendations in the field of optical fibre submarine cable systems.

This Recommendation was firstly issued in 1993. Amendments have been made taking into account the establishment of new Recommendation (G.975). An updated version of a list of cable ships and submerged equipments, which was available in the *Blue Book, Volume III, Supplement 11*, is also included.

Source

ITU-T Recommendation G.971 was revised by ITU-T Study Group 15 (1993-1996) and was approved under the WTSC Resolution No. 1 procedure on the 8th of November 1996.

FOREWORD

ITU (International Telecommunication Union) is the United Nations Specialized Agency in the field of telecommunications. The ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T) is a permanent organ of the ITU. The ITU-T is responsible for studying technical, operating and tariff questions and issuing Recommendations on them with a view to standardizing telecommunications on a worldwide basis.

The World Telecommunication Standardization Conference (WTSC), which meets every four years, establishes the topics for study by the ITU-T Study Groups which, in their turn, produce Recommendations on these topics.

The approval of Recommendations by the Members of the ITU-T is covered by the procedure laid down in WTSC Resolution No. 1.

In some areas of information technology which fall within ITU-T's purview, the necessary standards are prepared on a collaborative basis with ISO and IEC.

NOTE

In this Recommendation, the expression "Administration" is used for conciseness to indicate both a telecommunication administration and a recognized operating agency.

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Recommendation G.971

GENERAL FEATURES OF OPTICAL FIBRE SUBMARINE CABLE SYSTEMS

(revised in 1996)

1 Scope

This Recommendation applies to optical fibre submarine cable systems.

The purpose of this Recommendation is to identify the main features of optical fibre submarine cable systems.

2 References

The following ITU-T Recommendations and other references contain provisions which, through reference in this text, constitute provisions of this Recommendation. At the time of publication, the editions indicated were valid. All Recommendations and other references are subject to revision; all users of this Recommendation are therefore encouraged to investigate the possibility of applying the most recent edition of the Recommendations and other references listed below. A list of the currently valid ITU-T Recommendations is regularly published.

- ITU-T Recommendation G.972 (1997), *Definition of terms relevant to optical fibre submarine cable systems.*
- ITU-T Recommendation G.973 (1996), *Characteristics of repeaterless optical submarine cable systems.*
- ITU-T Recommendation G.974 (1993), *Characteristics of regenerative optical fibre submarine cable systems.*
- ITU-T Recommendation G.975 (1996), *Forward error correction for submarine systems.*

3 Terms and definitions

Terms used in this Recommendation are defined in Recommendation G.972.

4 Abbreviations

This Recommendation uses the following abbreviations.

| | |
|-----|---------------------------------|
| BU | Branching Unit |
| CTE | Cable Terminating Equipment |
| PFE | Power Feeding Equipment |
| TTE | Terminal Transmission Equipment |

5 Features of optical fibre submarine cable systems

An optical fibre submarine cable system has specific technical features:

- 1) A submarine cable system should achieve a long lifetime and a high reliability; the main reason is that, due to the difficulty in accessing the submerged plant, the construction and

maintenance of a link are long and expensive; moreover most of submarine links are of strategic importance in the transmission network and the interruption of a link usually results in significant loss of traffic and revenue.

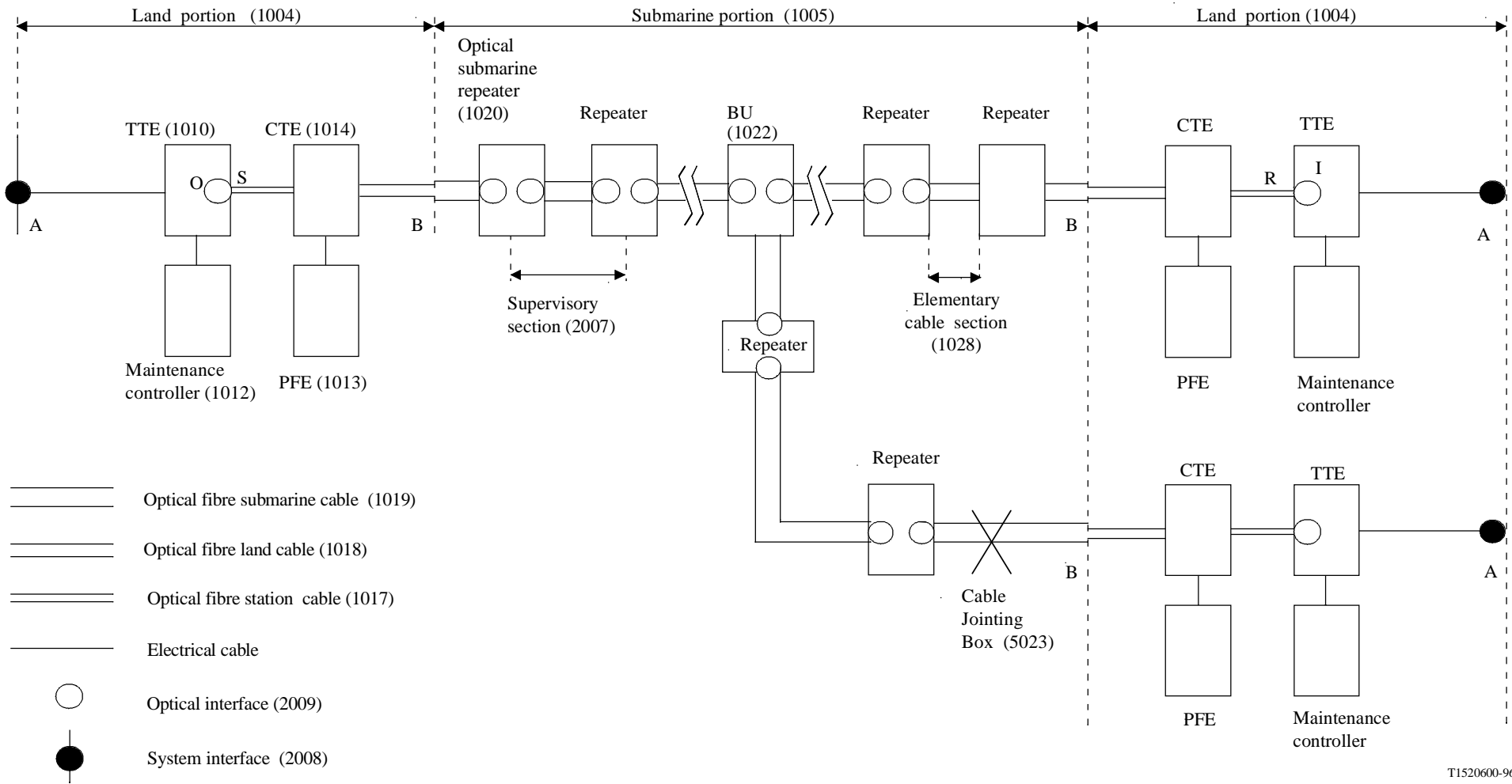
- 2) A submarine cable system should possess mechanical characteristics which enable it:
 - to be installed accurately with correct slack and with due safety consideration on the sea bed; deep water installations may reach 8000 metres. [In general, submarine cable systems shall be installed, buried or inspected by specially designed cable ships and submerged equipments. Detailed information of such cable ships and submerged equipments (i.e. ploughs, ROVs, etc.) is contained in Appendix I];
 - to resist the sea bottom environment condition at the installation depth, and particularly hydrostatic pressure, temperature, abrasion, corrosion, and marine life;
 - to be adequately protected (i.e. by armoring or burying) against aggression, due for example to trawlers or anchors;
 - to survive recovery from such a depth, and subsequent repair and relay, with due safety consideration.
- 3) The material characteristics of a submarine cable system should enable the optical fibre:
 - to achieve its desired reliability over its design lifetime;
 - to tolerate stated loss and ageing mechanisms, especially bending, strain, hydrogen, stress, corrosion and radiation.
- 4) The transmission quality of a submarine cable system should follow as a minimum Recommendation G. 821.

Figure 1 shows the basic concept of optical fibre submarine cable systems and boundaries. Optical submarine repeaters or optical submarine branching units could be included, depending on each system requirement.

In Figure 1, A denotes the system interfaces at the terminal station (where the system can be interfaced to terrestrial digital links or to other submarine cable systems), and B denotes beach joints or landing points. Numbers in brackets in the Figure refer to Recommendation G.972.

6 Relationship among Recommendations relevant to optical submarine cable systems

Relationship among the various Recommendations pertaining to optical fibre submarine cable systems are shown in the flow chart presented in Figure 2.



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NOTE 1 – A denotes system interface.
 NOTE 2 – B denotes landing points or beach joints (1006).
 NOTE 3 – X denotes cable jointing box (5023).
 NOTE 4 – Numbers in brackets relate to Recommendation G.972.

Figure 1/G.971 – Example of optical fibre submarine cable systems

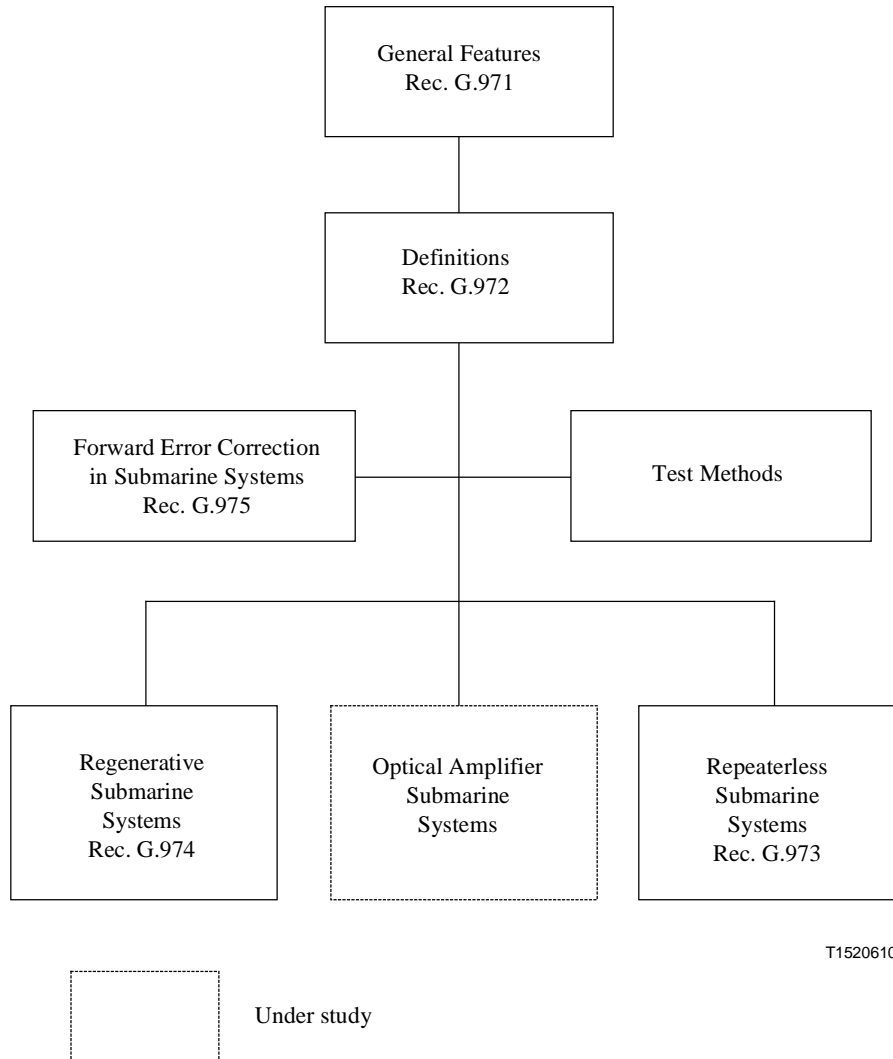


Figure 2/G.971 – Relationship between Recommendations relevant to optical submarine cable systems

APPENDIX I

Data on cable ships and submersible equipments of various countries
(Mar del Plata, 1968, amended at Geneva, 1972, 1976, 1980, 1984, 1988 and 1995)

Section 1 – Cable ships

| Name of ship | Year of construction | Displacement (tons) | Overall length (m) | Draft (m) | Normal speed (knots) | Range (autonomy) (nautical miles) | Number of tanks | Cable capacity | | Re-peaters | Cable gear | | | | Maximum operating depth (m) | Capability |
|-----------------------|----------------------|---------------------|--------------------|------------|----------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------|---------------|------------|---------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| | | | | | | | | Cable | | | Cable engine | | Unwinding pulley | | | |
| | | | | | | | | Cubic metres (m ³) | Weight (tons) | | Drum (diameter) (m) | Linear (pairs of wheels) | Bow sheave (diameter) (m) | Stern sheave (diameter) (m) | | |
| <i>John Cabot</i> | 1965 | 5 318 | 97 | 6.7 | 12/15 | 16 000 | 3 | 543 | 1 500 | 24 | 1 × 3.0 (30t) | 18 | 3.0 | – | All | Repair ship. Plough capabilities. Ice breaker Lloyd's 100 A1 |
| <i>Peter Faber</i> | 1982 | Open 750 | 78.4 | Open 3.8 | 14.0 | 7 000 | 1 tank | 310 | 600 | App. 10 | 3.0 | | 3.0 | – | 4 000 | Reinforced for operation in icefilled waters. On the aft deck: one A-frame with hydraulic topping. Max. load 35 tons. One hydraulic towing and general purpose winch. Two hydraulic double-drum warping winches. |
| | | Closed 1 830 | | Closed 5.0 | | | 1 hold | 230 | 400 | | | | | | | |
| <i>Maersk Fighter</i> | 1992 | 2 961 | 82.5 | 6.24 | 15.7 Max | 7 700 | 2 | 1 263 | 2 400 | – | 4.0 (25t) | 65 (4t) | – | – | – | Laying/burying and repair of all types of cables (coaxial, optical fibre and power cables) Ploughs and ROV capability. |

| Name of ship | Year of construction | Displacement (tons) | Overall length (m) | Draft (m) | Normal speed (knots) | Range (autonomy) (nautical miles) | Number of tanks | Cable capacity | | | Cable gear | | | | Maximum operating depth (m) | Capability | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|---------------------|--------------------|-----------|----------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------|--|---------------|------------|---------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|--|--|---|
| | | | | | | | | Cable | | Re-peaters | Cable engine | | Unwinding pulley | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | Cubic metres (m ³) | Weight (tons) | | Drum (diameter) (m) | Linear (pairs of wheels) | Bow sheave (diameter) (m) | Stern sheave (diameter) (m) | | | |
| <i>M/S Telepaatti</i> | 1978 | 322 | 36.6 | 3.0 | 10.5 | - | 1 | FINLAND <i>Ship belonging to Telecom Finland</i> | | | | 2 × 3.0 | | | Laying by linear engine. Specially equipped for cable route survey and submarine cable repair. Det Norske Veritas double strength class 1A1 keel, 1B ice protection. | | |
| | | | | | | | | - | 150 | - | | | | | | | |
| <i>Vercors</i> | 1974 | 11 000 | 136 | 7.2 | 16.6 | 12 000 | 3 | FRANCE <i>Ships belonging to France Telecom</i> | | | | 24 | 3.0 | Chute | All | Laying and repair of all types of telecom cables. Burying of cables with plough. | |
| | | | | | | | | 2 425 | 4 900 | 144 | 3.0 | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <i>Leon Thevenin</i> | 1983 | 6 800 | 107 | 6.24 | 15.0 | 10 000 | 2 + 1 | 1 420 | 2 000 | 11 | 3.4 | 12 | 3.0 | Chute | All | Laying and repair of all types of telecom cables. Burying of cables using Scarab. | |
| <i>Raymond Croze</i> | 1983 | 6 800 | 107 | 6.24 | 15.0 | 10 000 | 2 + 1 | 1 420 | 2 000 | 11 | 3.4 | 12 | 3.0 | Chute | All | Laying and repair of all types of telecom cables. Burying of cables using Scorpio 2000. | |
| <i>Teliri</i> | 1995 | 6 500 | 111.5 | 6.5 | 16.5 | 10 800 | 3 | ITALY <i>1) Ship belonging to Elettra S.p.A</i> | | | | 2 × 6.0 (45t) | 1 × 18 cp × 15t | 3.5 | 3.5 | All | Laying and repair of armoured coaxial and optical fibre cables; survey. |
| | | | | | | | | 2 050 | 2 400 | 27 | | | | | | | |

| Name of ship | Year of construction | Displacement (tons) | Overall length (m) | Draft (m) | Normal speed (knots) | Range (autonomy) (nautical miles) | Number of tanks | Cable capacity | | | Cable gear | | | | Maximum operating depth (m) | Capability |
|-----------------|----------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|-----------------|----------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------|---------------|------------|---------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|---|--|
| | | | | | | | | Cable | | Re-peaters | Cable engine | | Unwinding pulley | | | |
| | | | | | | | | Cubic metres (m ³) | Weight (tons) | | Drum (diameter) (m) | Linear (pairs of wheels) | Bow sheave (diameter) (m) | Stern sheave (diameter) (m) | | |
| <i>Arabella</i> | 1975 | 2 620 | 76.66 | 5.18 | 11 | 2 000 | 2 | 1 100 | 2 000 | – | – | – | 3 | All | Lay/repair. | |
| | 1984 | 16 900 | 128.5 | 8.5 | 10 | 8 000 | 2 | 2 600 | 8 000 | 20 | 6.0 (50t) | 1 (Pads type 10t) | 6.0 | All | Stern only. | |
| <i>Teneo</i> | SPAIN | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | <i>Ships belonging to TEMASA</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1992 | 4 000 | 81 | 5.7 | 14.5 | 4 200 | 2 | 500 | 1 000 | 20 | 2 × 3.5 | 2 × 3 | 3 | All | | | |
| 1987 | 7 853 | 114.03 | 6.5 | 12.5 (Max) 15.7 | 6 800 | 3 | 1 500 | | 33 | 2 × 3.5 | 3.0 | 3.0 | 5 700 | | | |
| <i>KDD Maru</i> | JAPAN | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | <i>1) Ships belonging to KDD</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 1967 | 6 026 | 113.83 | 6.3 | 16 | 7 000 | 3 | 1 012 | 2 700 | 70 | 3.6 | 3.0 | Chute 4.0 | All | Lays and repairs all types of telephone cables. | |
| | 1992 | 12 000 | 133.5 | 7.0 | 15 | 10 000 | Main 3 Spare 4 | 2 600 | 4 500 | 57 | 3.6 | 21 (18 inch) | 3.2 | – | All | Laying by linear engine. Lays and repairs all types of telephone cables. |
| | <i>2) Ships belonging to NTT</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1974 | 5 656 | 119.3 | 5.60 | 16.5 | 6 883 | 3 | 1 429 | 1 900 | 95 | 3.8 | 8 (24 inch) | 3.0 | 3.0 | All | Lays and repairs all types of telephone cables. | |
| 1979 | 819 | 64.8 | 3.50 | 12.0 | 3 690 | 2 | 139 | 250 | 20 | 2.5 | – | – | 1.5 | 5 000 | Lays and repairs all types of telephone cables. | |
| 1983 | 1 336 | 74.0 | 43.50 | 13.5 | 4 500 | 2 | 169 | 250 | 20 | 3.0 | 6 (18 inch) | 2.5 | 2.0 | All | Lays and repairs all types of telephone cables. | |

| Name of ship | Year of construction | Displacement (tons) | Overall length (m) | Draft (m) | Normal speed (knots) | Range (autonomy) (nautical miles) | Number of tanks | Cable capacity | | Cable gear | | | | Maximum operating depth (m) | Capability | |
|--|----------------------|---------------------|--------------------|-----------|----------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------|---------------|------------|---------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|------------|---|
| | | | | | | | | Cable | | Re-peaters | Cable engine | | Unwinding pulley | | | |
| | | | | | | | | Cubic metres (m ³) | Weight (tons) | | Drum (diameter) (m) | Linear (pairs of wheels) | Bow sheave (diameter) (m) | | | Stern sheave (diameter) (m) |
| UNITED KINGDOM | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <i>1) Ship belonging to British Telecom</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <i>Sovereign</i> | 1991 | 13 018 | 131 | 7.0 | 13.5 | 14 000 | 4 | 2 800 | 6 200 | 90 | 3.50 | | 3.00 | 3.50 | All | Lays, repairs all types of coaxial and optical fibre cable. (Operated by C&W marine.) |
| <i>2) Ships belonging to Cable & Wireless (Marine) Limited</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <i>Alert</i> | 1961 | 9 477 | 130 | 7.1 | 14 | 10 000 | 3 | 1 509 | 3 100 | 48 | 2.98 | | 2.98 | 2.98 | All | Laying by linear engine and sea-bed burial by plow. Lays/repairs all types of coaxial and optical fibre cables. |
| <i>Cable Venture</i> | 1962 | 16 983 | 153 | 8.97 | 12.5 | 10 000 | 4 + 1 (spare) | 5 086 | 9 000 | 400 | 2.80 | | 3.00 | 3.39 | All | Laying by linear cable engine. Ploughs, lays and repairs armoured and lightweight cables. |
| <i>Mercury</i> | 1962 | 11 683 | 144 | 7.5 | 14.5 | 8 000 | 3 | 2 970 | 3 500 | 144 | 3.05 | | 3.50 | Chute 3.05 | All | Ditto (no plough). |
| <i>Cable Enterprise</i> | 1964 | 5 759 | 113 | 5.84 | 13 | 8 000 | 3 | 887 | 2 150 | 30 | 2.8 | | 3.00 | Chute 3.05 | All | Lays/repairs armoured cables. Repairs lightweight cables. (Note *) |
| <i>Monarch</i> | 1975 | 4 639 | 97 | 5.5 | 14 | 7 000 | 4 | 417 | 850 | 12 | 3.00 | | 3.00 | None | All | Lays/repairs armoured coaxial and optical fibre cables. Repairs lightweight coaxial and optical fibre cables. Detrenching/ reburial by submersible jetting. |

* NOTE – Only relatively short cables are laid and only shore-end.

| Name of ship | Year of construction | Displacement (tons) | Overall length (m) | Draft (m) | Normal speed (knots) | Range (autonomy) (nautical miles) | Number of tanks | Cable capacity | | | Cable gear | | | | Maximum operating depth (m) | Capability |
|---------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|--------------------|-----------|----------------------|-----------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|---------------|-----------|---------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| | | | | | | | | Cable | | Repeaters | Cable engine | | Unwinding pulley | | | |
| | | | | | | | | Cubic metres (m ³) | Weight (tons) | | Drum (diameter) (m) | Linear (pairs of wheels) | Bow sheave (diameter) (m) | Stern sheave (diameter) (m) | | |
| <i>Iris</i> | 1976 | 4 639 | 97 | 5.5 | 14 | 7 000 | 4 | 417 | 850 | 12 | 3.00 | | 3.00 | None | All | Lays/repairs armoured coaxial and optical fibre cables. Repairs lightweight coaxial and optical fibre cables. |
| <i>MV Cable Installer</i> | 1980 | 6 065 | 89.42 | 5 | 12 | 42 days | 4 | 840 | 1 600 | None | 3.0 | 4-track pair | – | 3.0 | – | Repeaterless installation vessel fully DP Cegelec 901 system. |
| <i>Seaspread</i> | 1980 | 10 887 | 116 | 6.8 | 13 | 65 days | 2 | 1 010 | 1 701 | – | 2 × 3 | – | – | 3 | All | Lays/repairs by aft drums. Burial by plough. Lays/repairs armoured and lightweight cables. |
| <i>Pacific Guardian</i> | 1984 | 7 526 | 116 | 6.32 | 14.0 | 8 000 | 3 | 1 416 | 3 470 | 96 | 3.5 | | 3.00 | 3.00 | All | Laying by linear cable engine. Lays and repairs armoured and lightweight cables. |
| <i>Sir Elic Sharp</i> | 1988 | 7 526 | 115 | 6.3 | 13.5 | 9 600 | 3 | 1 416 | 1 700 | 96 | 2 × 3.5 | – | 3 | 3 | All | Laying by linear cable engine. Repairs and lays armoured and lightweight cables. Post lay/repair burial by integral ROV. |
| <i>MV Cable Innovator</i> | 1995 | – | 142 | 8.3 | 14.5 | 42 days | 4 | 4 900 | 7 500 | 180 | 4.0 | 21 pair (min) | – | 4.0 | – | Simplex D/P system. Lays/repairs cables. |
| | | | | | | | UNITED STATES OF AMERICA <i>Ships belonging to AT&T</i> | | | | | | | | | |
| <i>Charlie Brown</i> | 1952 | 2 881 | 99.9 | 5.8 | 15 | 7 000 | 3 | 660 | 2 122 | – | 3.66 | | 3.66 | N/A | All | Repairs all types of telephone cables. Lays short and shore systems. |
| <i>Long Lines</i> | 1963 | 11 326 | 156 | 7.9 | 15 | 10 000 | 3 | 4 420 | 7 000 | 125 | 3.66 | | 3.05 | 3.66 | All | Lays/repairs all types of telephone cables. |

Section 2 – Submersible equipments

| Type of submersible | Weight (tons) | Overall length (m) | Width (m) | Height (m) | Trenching system | Trenching | Propulsion | Max.operating depth (m) | Capability |
|---|---------------|--------------------|-----------|------------|---|--|---|-----------------------------------|--|
| FRANCE | | | | | | | | | |
| <i>Submersibles belonging to France Telecom (FTRSI)</i> | | | | | | | | | |
| <i>ELISE2 Submersible Plough system</i> | 17 | 7.60 | 2.90 | 2.95 | Ploughshare | Immediate burial up to 1.1 m | Towed by support ship | 1 500 | Lay and bury all types of cables. |
| <i>ELISE3 Submersible Plough system</i> | 17 | 7.60 | 2.90 | 2.95 | Ploughshare | Immediate burial up to 1.1 m | Towed by support ship | 1 500 | Lay and bury all types of cables. |
| <i>Self-advancing buried system CASTOR2</i> | 12 | 7.0 | 2.40 | 3.00 | Trenching wheel or chain | Burial of existing cables down to 2 m | Tracked vehicle | 1 000 | Burial of cables and pipes. Visual inspection. |
| <i>Scarab 3</i> | 9 | 4.0 | 3.50 | 2.10 | High pressure water jets | Up to 60 cm depth | Thrusters (inspection) Back drive (burial) | 1 000 (burial) 2 000 (inspect) | Visual inspection, post lay burial, cable location, cable manipulation, cable cutting. |
| <i>Remote control submersible Scorpio 2000</i> | 3.4 | 2.9 | 1.5 | 2.11 | High pressure water jets | Up to 60 cm depth | Thrusters | 1 000 | Visual inspection, post lay burial, cable location/ manipulation/cutting. |
| ITALY | | | | | | | | | |
| <i>Submersibles belonging to Pirelli Cavi</i> | | | | | | | | | |
| <i>Plough 1</i> | 10 | 7 | 2.7 | 3 | Plough share | Up to 1 m | Towed by support ship | 50 | Lay and bury cables. |
| <i>Plough 2</i> | 9 | 8.5 | 3.8 | 3.5 | Plough share | Up to 1.2 m | Towed by support ship | 50 | Lay and bury fibre optic cables. |
| UNITED KINGDOM | | | | | | | | | |
| <i>Submersibles belonging to Cable & Wireless (Marine) Ltd.</i> | | | | | | | | | |
| <i>Submersible trencher</i> | 17.0 | 6.6 | 4 | 3.4 | Fluidization and cutting jets and dredge pump | Up to 1 m depth with cutting and fluidization jets | Three vertical and four horizontal thrusters, track drive differential steering | 274 | Trench in existing cable and pipe. |

| Type of submersible | Weight (tons) | Overall length (m) | Width (m) | Height (m) | Trenching system | Trenching | Propulsion | Max.operating depth (m) | Capability |
|---|---------------|--------------------|-----------|------------|-------------------------------|--|--|----------------------------------|---|
| UNITED KINGDOM | | | | | | | | | |
| <i>Submersibles belonging to Cable & Wireless (Marine) Ltd. (cont.)</i> | | | | | | | | | |
| <i>Submersible Plough system</i> | 9.75 | 6.1 | 2.6 | 2.6 | Ploughshare proceeded by disc | Immediate burial of cable on ploughing | Towed by support ship | 900 | Lay and bury cable, umbilical and pipe in one action giving full cable protection. |
| <i>Remote control submersible 2 off Cirus A&B</i> | 3.2 | 3.5 | 2.1 | 2.3 | Water jets | Trenching capability 0.3 m | Thrusters (7) | 1 000 | Visual inspection, cable location/inspection/deburial, manipulation. Tools include cable cutter, cable gripper and 2 manipulators with line cutters. |
| <i>Plough 2 off A&B</i> | 14.5 | 9 | 4.1 | 4 | Passive blade | Trenching capability 1.0 m | Towed | 1 000 | Steerable, repeater burial. |
| <i>Remote control submersible ROV 128</i> | 7.5 | 2.9 | 1.8 | 2.0 | Jetting tool | Trenching capability 0.6 m | Tracked burial Thrusters survey | 1 000 (burial) 2 000 (survey) | Tools include cable cutter, cable gripper and 2 manipulators with line cutters. |
| <i>Underwater vehicle- MARLIN</i> | 7.8 | 4.191 | 2.438 | 3.175 | Burial skid | To 1.0 m (Optimized for 0-30 kPa soil) | Hydraulic driven thrusters | 2 500 | Burial, deburial, inspection. Maintenance and repair. Tools include cable cutter, cable gripper. |
| <i>Scarab I – Umbilically tethered ROV</i> | 3.2 | 2.74 | 1.82 | 1.52 | Jetting tool | Up to 0.6 m | Thrusters: 2 vertical 4 vectored | 2 000 | Cable detection and inspection. Visual survey. Cable manipulation and cutting Debris elimination. Cable and repeater burial/deburial. |
| <i>Subtrack – ROV</i> | 10.0 | 8.0 (Max) | 3.7 | 3.8 | Jetting tool | Burial to 1.0 m | Electro hydraulic track drives | 1 000 | Cable burial and deburial. Inspection. Maintenance and repair. |

| Type of submersible | Weight (tons) | Overall length (m) | Width (m) | Height (m) | Trenching system | Trenching | Propulsion | Max.operating depth (m) | Capability |
|--|---------------|--------------------|-----------|-----------------------------------|---|--|--------------------------------|-------------------------|---|
| UNITED KINGDOM | | | | | | | | | |
| <i>Submersibles belonging to Cables & Wireless (Marine) Ltd. (cont.)</i> | | | | | | | | | |
| <i>EUREKA: Deepwater burial + trenching system</i> | 17 (Max) | 5.5 | 4.2 | 3.85 | Jetting tool Rock wheel cutter Mechanical chain excavator | 1 m 1.2 m 2.2 m | Electro hydraulic track drives | 1 500 | Capable of burying cable, small flexible flowlines and also rigid pipes. Can also debury cable and restore. Visual and electronic inspections. |
| <i>Plough 5</i> | 14.0 | 9.0 | 4.6 | 3.7 | Passive blade | Variable from 0-1100 mm (600-900 mm in all conditions) | Towed | 1 000 | Simultaneously lay and bury cables and umbilicals at varying depths. |
| <i>Plough 6 and 7</i> | 14.0 | 9.0 | 4.6 | 3.7 | Passive blade | Max burial depth: 1100 mm | Towed | 1 000 | Simultaneously lay and bury cables and umbilicals at varying depths. |
| <i>Cable Plough 1000 mm</i> | 14.4 | 9.75 | 4.1 | 3.9 | Passive blade | 1000 mm (Good conditions: 1100 mm; Repeaters/Joints: 500 mm) | Towed | 1 000 | Simultaneously lay and bury cables and umbilicals at varying depths. |
| DENMARK | | | | | | | | | |
| <i>Submersibles belonging to Telecom Denmark</i> | | | | | | | | | |
| <i>Plough 1</i> | 12.2 | 7.2 | 3.75 | 2.5 (3.1 m including camera cage) | Plough share | Variable to 800 mm | Towed by host vessel | 1 000 | Lay and bury telecom cables, power cables and umbilicals. Cables: Up to 120 mmφ (bary). Joints and repeaters: Up to 400 mmφ (pass). |
| <i>Plough 7</i> | 13.5 | 9.0 | 4.6 | 3.7 | Plough share | Variable from 0-1100 mm (600-900 mm in all conditions) | Towed by surface vessel | 1 000 | Lay and bury fibre optic cables, power cables and umbilicals. |

| Type of submersible | Weight (tons) | Overall length (m) | Width (m) | Height (m) | Trenching system | Trenching | Propulsion | Max.operating depth (m) | Capability |
|--|---------------|--------------------|-----------|------------|--------------------------|--|--|-------------------------|---|
| DENMARK | | | | | | | | | |
| <i>Submersibles belonging to Telecom Denmark (cont.)</i> | | | | | | | | | |
| <i>Subtrack-Subsea tractor</i> | 10.0 | 8.0 (Max) | 3.7 | 3.8 | Jetting tool | Burial to 1.0 m | Electro hydraulic track drives | 1 000 | Cable burial and deburial. Inspection. Maintenance and repair. |
| <i>Super Phantom S4 - ROV</i> | 0.09 | 1.5 | 0.75 | 0.6 | – | – | Thrusters 4 prop fwd/aft 2 prop vertical 2 prop transvers | 300 | Inspect cables and other underwater objects. Can also be used to inspect seabed conditions. |
| JAPAN | | | | | | | | | |
| <i>1) Submersibles belonging to KDD</i> | | | | | | | | | |
| <i>KS-2 cable plough</i> | 9.3 | 11.2 | 2.56 | 2.0 | – | Immediate burial of cable on ploughing | Towed by support ship | 200 | Lay and bury cable in one action. |
| <i>MARCAS crawler</i> | 4.7 | 4.0 | 3.0 | 2.15 | Fluidization jets | Fluidization jets | Track drive | 200 | Trench in existing cable. |
| <i>MARCAS-2500</i> | 3.6 | 2.65 | 1.8 | 1.9 | Fluidization jets | Fluidization jets | 2 vertical and 4 horizontal thrusters | 2 500 | Post-lay burial, maintenance of cable and survey of seabed. |
| <i>2) Submersibles belonging to NTT</i> | | | | | | | | | |
| <i>Plough-type MARK-5 submarine cable burying system</i> | 19.0 | 9.1 | 4.0 | 4.0 | – | Up to 1.5 m depth immediate burial of cable on ploughing | Towed by support ship | 600 | Simultaneous or post-lay burial of cable. |
| <i>Submarine cable repair burial and inspection system</i> | 6.2 | 3.8 | 2.1 | 2.3 | Fluidization jets | Fluidization jets | Vertical and horizontal thrusters | 1 000 | Post-lay burial maintenance of cable and survey of seabed. |
| <i>Seabed surveying and cable burying equipment</i> | 6.2 | 4.7 | 3.0 | 1.7 | Fluidization jets | Fluidization jets | Towed by support ship | 200 | Lay and bury cable in one action. |
| <i>High pressure water jets type</i> | 6.5 | 4.7 | 3.0 | 1.7 | High pressure water jets | – | Towed by support ship | 200 | Lay and bury cable in one action. |

| Type of submersible | Weight (tons) | Overall length (m) | Width (m) | Height (m) | Trenching system | Trenching | Propulsion | Max.operating depth (m) | Capability |
|------------------------|---------------|--------------------|-----------|------------|--|-----------|------------|-------------------------|--|
| <i>ARADO</i> | 12 | 9 | 4.6 | 4 | SPAIN <i>1) Submersible belonging to TEMASA</i> | | | 1 000 | |
| <i>ROV</i> | 8.5 | 4.0 | 3.9 | 2.1 | <i>2) Submersible belonging to Consorcio ESCARAB</i> | | | 2 000 1 000 | |
| <i>Sea plough IV A</i> | – | – | – | – | UNITED STATES OF AMERICA <i>Submersibles belonging to AT&T</i> | | | – | Plough trench 16 inch wide to maximum 24 inch depth. |
| <i>Sea plough V</i> | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | Same as <i>Sea Plough IV A</i> . |
| <i>Scarab I/II</i> | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | Multi-owners used for maintenance. |

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