

SPC Launches PACRICS Web Site

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Following strong demand for the Pacific Rural Internet Connectivity System (PACRICS),

SPC has launched a web site to help interested people understand how to obtain a system, how to operate it and how to make the operations sustainable.

<http://www.pacrics.net>

PACRICS, a Pacific Digital Strategy initiative by SPC with funding support from AusAID, is designed to provide a low cost Internet connection for rural and remote parts of the Pacific Islands that do not have connectivity.

This initiative addresses some of the major telecommunication challenges facing rural and remote communities in the Pacific islands region including:

- • Lack of access to communications technology for rural and remote areas
- • High costs of ICTs and access to ICTs
- • Lack of good public and emergency services.
- • Digital and communication divide affecting mostly rural and remote areas

PACRICS can be installed in a matter of hours without specialist skills and can support a suite of computers in a Community Information Center or school, or an OLPC project at a Primary school.

The web site has been designed to provide information to help people select the right equipment, install and operate it and to run a successful center. It has links to Pactel, the service provider and isi.nc, the network equipment supplier. The web site also features good examples from PACRICS sites and other Telecenter projects that could give valuable assistance to PACRICS Operators.

Contact the SPC Coordinator about PACRICS at iant@spc.int