

# WIDE/ARENA-PAC & NII/SINET & Cinia & NORDUnet - VC - 10 June 2021

Date & time: Thursday, 10 June 2021 7:30am - 8:15am UTC

Location: Zoom

Participants:

- WIDE/ARENA-PAC: Jun
- NII/SINET: Shigeo, Osamu
- Cinia: Aki
- NORDUnet: René, Erik-Jan

Aki:

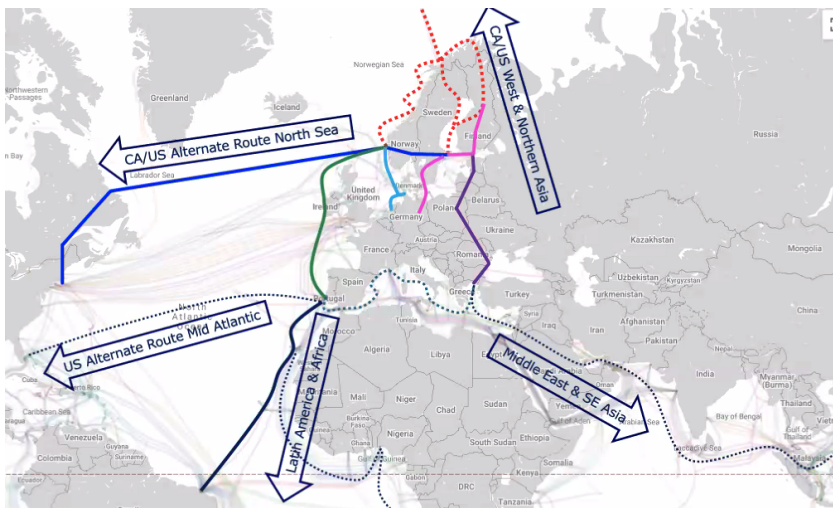
- Cinia's official statement on Arctic Connect can be found here: <https://www.cinia.fi/en/news/the-arctic-connect-telecom-cable-project-is-set-on-hold-for-further-assessment>
- This was made available, after several fake news articles from Russia.
- MSS is leading Polar Express

Erik-Jan:

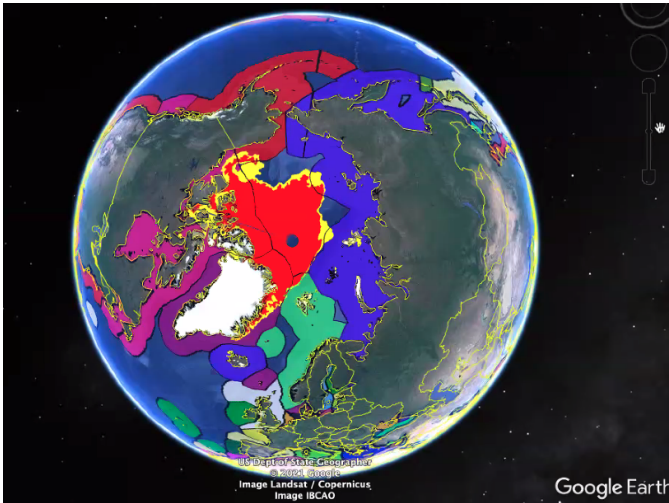
- NORDUnet's public statement on putting Arctic Connect on hold can be found here: <http://www.nordu.net/article/nordunet-position-arctic-connect-and-european-data-gateway-platforms-strategy>
- NORDUnet is committed to continue to investigate JP-Nordics connectivity.

René:

- The European Data Gateway (EDG) Platforms Declaration, signed by all EU Member States and Norway and Iceland is an important step for Europe and the EC to focus on submarine cables.
- An "artist's impression" on how this might lead to more cables, led by European companies, could look as follows:



- If we map together the countries' Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs) and the lowest ice extent of last summer (15 September 2020), we see this:



- It is clear from this map that we would need Icebreaker technology that is not there (yet) to lay a submarine cable between Northern Nordics and the Bering Strait without going through the Russian EEZ.
- Moreover, the Arctic area is of concern more generally, as various countries claim more territory.

Aki:

- UNCLOS however says you should be allowed to put a submarine cable in a country's EEZ, but this might be difficult to say the least.
- The Bering Strait is an issues well, and would need USA collaboration.
- Looking at alternatives.

EJB:

- Japan and the EU do have a close relationship, witnessed by declarations and visits.
- Japan and the Nordics are close as well, both for research and trade.
- A recent announcement was this: <https://asia.nikkei.com/Business/Telecommunication/Japan-teams-up-with-Finland-on-6G-development>

Jun:

- Cable landing in Hokkaido remains important for us.
- Hokkaido is the most east island of Japan, and this is closest to Canada and Alaska. A northern route remains interesting.
- We confirmed that we will continue to work on connectivity, with an Arctic Cable and continue with a carrier neutral CLS in Tomakomai. To be ready for new cable resurrections.

We conclude:

- Sooner or later, this route will become a possibility.
- We need to be vocal about possibilities.
- Let's continue to brainstorm and research different routes.

A next meeting of this group could take place at PTC, the pandemic and intercontinental travel permitting, course. We could easily meet there, if possible, with Canada and the USA, but also e.g. ASN and others.

EJB to set up a mailing list for the six of us so we can easily share information on Japan-Nordics connectivity if and when it becomes available.