

Satellite Internet Access Guide: French Polynesia

October 2023

Using this Guide

Question: This column contains the relevant question to be addressed under (Response).

Response: Information addressing the question identified under (Question) is contained in this column.

Additional Information: This column contains any clarification or added information necessary to better understand the information under (Response).

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Abbreviations for Legislation

- Post and Electronic Communications Code enacted by France (**PECC**).
- Law No. 86-1067 of 1986 on freedom of communication (**Law No. 88-1067**).

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S/N	Question	Response	Additional Information
1	Does the member state have law(s) relating to internet service provisioning and access?	Articles L42, L43 and L97 of the PECC .	French Polynesia has the status of an Overseas Collectivities which confers on it certain legislative autonomy from France. With this, legislations enacted in France do not automatically apply to French Polynesia unless where expressly specified in the legislation. Consequently, only Articles L41 (assignment of radiofrequencies), Article L43 (establishment of the ANFR), and Article L97 (frequency assignments relating to satellite systems) of the PECC in relation to electronic communications are applicable in French Polynesia.
2	Are there restrictions on use or access to internet?	Section 1 of Law No. 86-1067 of 1986 on freedom of communication (which is applicable in French Polynesia) guarantees freedom to use electronic communications which includes internet access.	It is also pertinent to note that the internet penetration rate was 72.7% as at January 2022, indicative of the fact that 27.3% of the population have no access to internet.

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3	Is satellite a medium used to provide internet access in the member state?	French Polynesia is considered a major hub for satellite communications within the pacific region, as it hosts one of the uplink systems for three major satellite networks – Galileo satellite, Kacific-1 satellite and Intelsat satellite.	
4	Are there existing legislations for satellite internet access?	No legislation in this regard was identified.	
5	Which agency is responsible for regulating internet service provisioning including satellite internet provisioning?	Telecommunications, radiocommunications and electronic communications are classified as state services . Therefore, these services fall under the regulatory oversight of the government of the French Polynesia through different bodies including (i) Office des postes et telecommunications (OPT)– the government-owned incumbent telecommunications operator,	

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		(ii) Direction Generale De L'Economie Numerique (DGEN) – the executive unit in charge of digital economy, and (iii) the Agence Nationale Des Frequences (ANFR) – the government agency responsible for managing radio frequencies for different services, including satellite.	
6	Who can provide internet service using satellites?	No licensing or regulatory framework applicable to French Polynesia was discovered, save for the PECC that is partly applicable as explained in <i>No. 1</i> above.	
7	Is a license or permission required to use, operate, or control satellite for internet access?	While Article L33-1 of the PECC stipulates that establishment and operations of electronic communications network and provision of electronic communications services does not require a licence but subject to compliance with the rules contained in the provision, the provision is not applicable in French Polynesia.	
8	What is the procedure for obtaining these licenses/permits?	From desk research carried out, no licensing framework relating to the use, operation or control of satellite for internet access was identified. However, by virtue of Article L97-2 of the PECC, any request for frequency assignment relating to satellite system must be submitted to the ANFR.	

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9	What is the validity period for these licenses/permits?	<p>No licensing requirement for providing electronic communications services or establishing electronic communications networks was identified.</p> <p>Further to Article L97-2 of the PECC, the authorisation granted for use of assigned frequency for satellite systems continues to be valid unless the operation becomes incompatible with the purpose for which it was initially granted.</p>	
10	What are the technical requirements for use of satellites for internet access?	<p>C and Ku bands are used for satellite broadband connectivity.</p>	
11	Are there existing (or planned) satellite internet providers operating in this economy?	<p>There are three mobile network providers offering telephony services including internet access – Vini (operated by the government-owned OPT), Vodafone, and Viti. While OPT/Vini uses SES network’s NSS-9 satellite to provide satellite internet connectivity (in addition to its terrestrial infrastructure), there is no information on whether Vodafone and Viti use satellite technology to provide internet access.</p>	

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12	Does an end user require a license to access satellite for internet connectivity?	There is no licensing requirement identified for end users of satellite internet systems.	
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