



# Fibre sensing

An overview

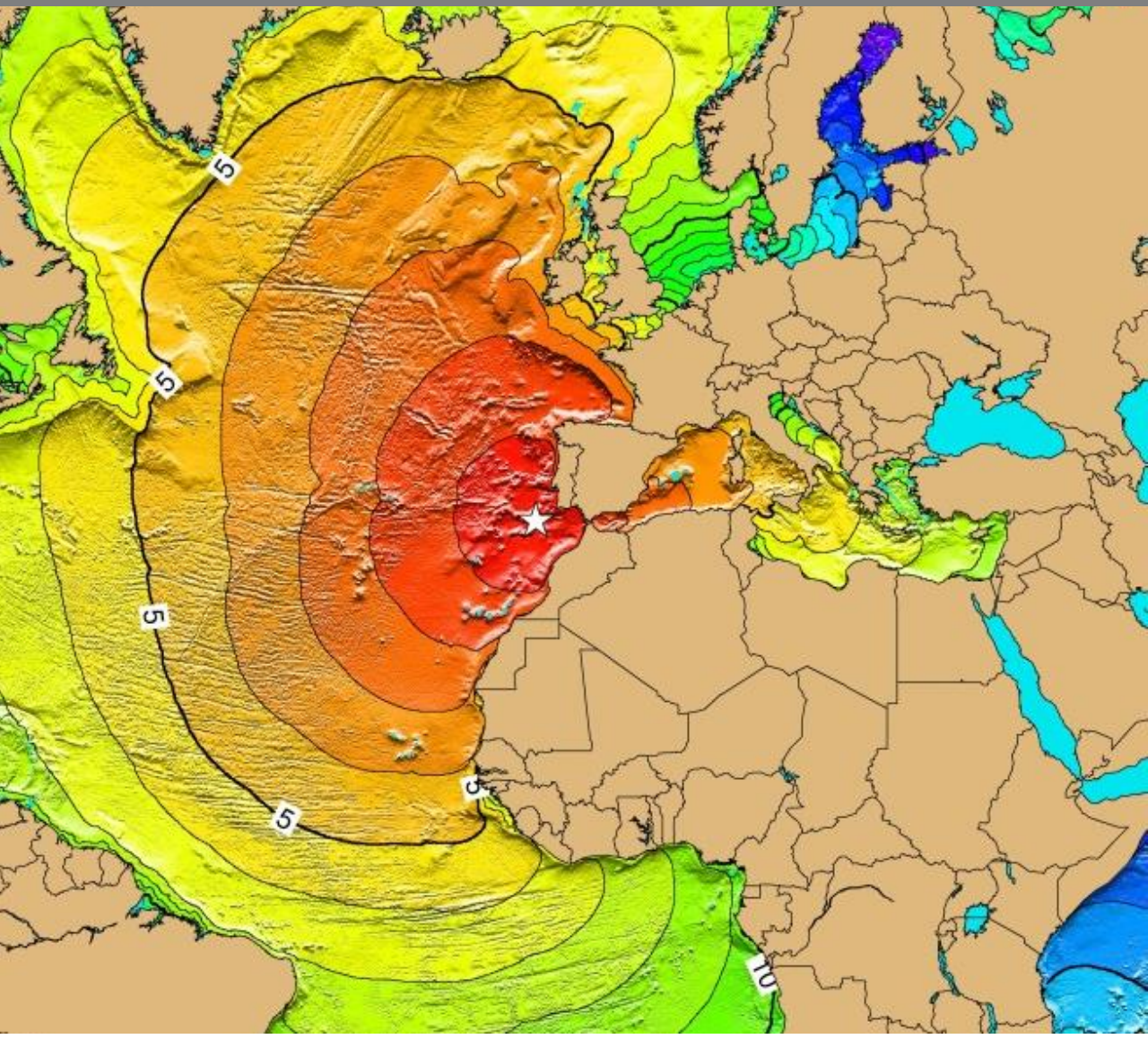
**Chris Atherton**  
Senior Research Engagement officer

SingaREN visit  
29<sup>th</sup> April 2024

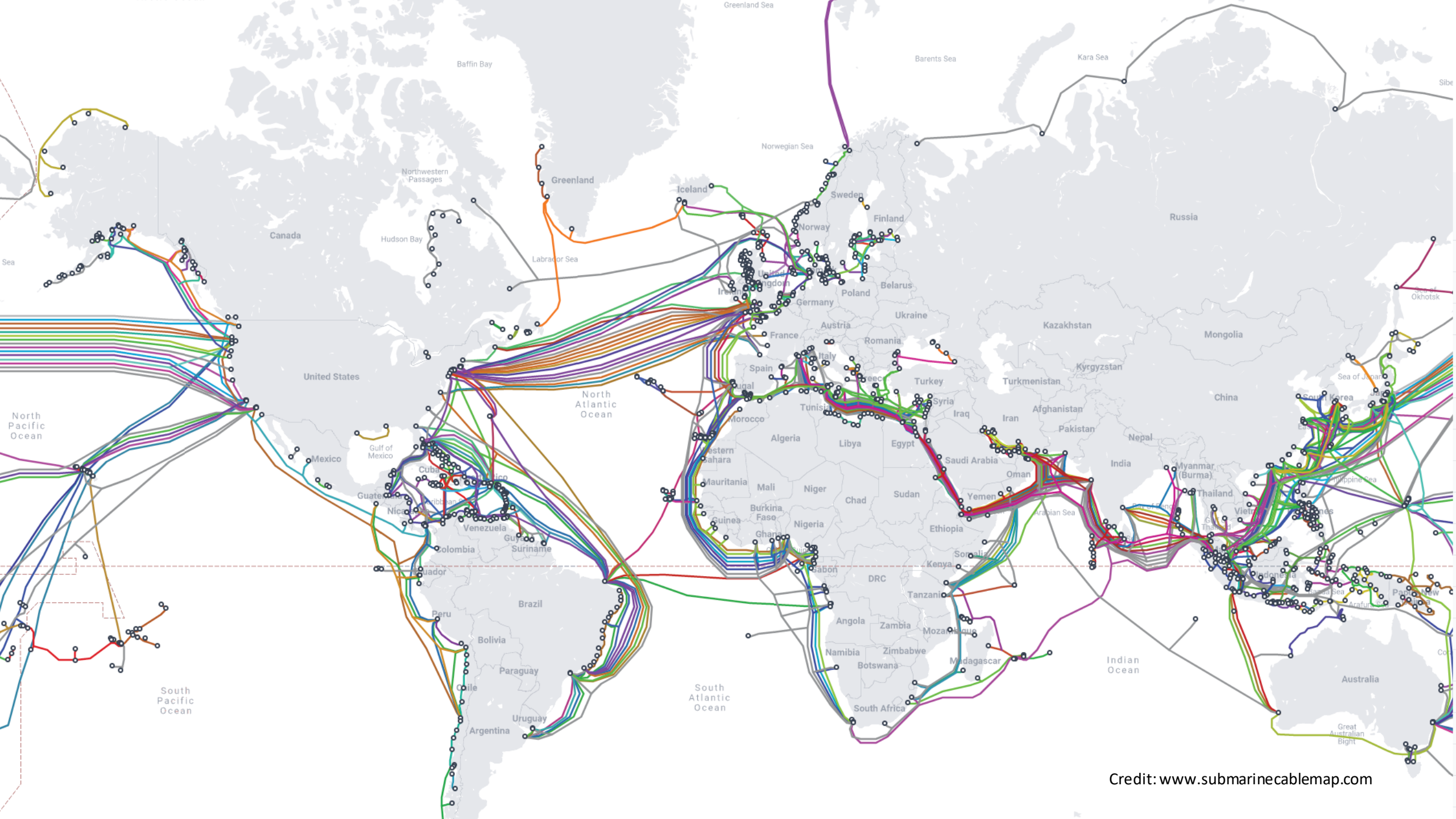
Public



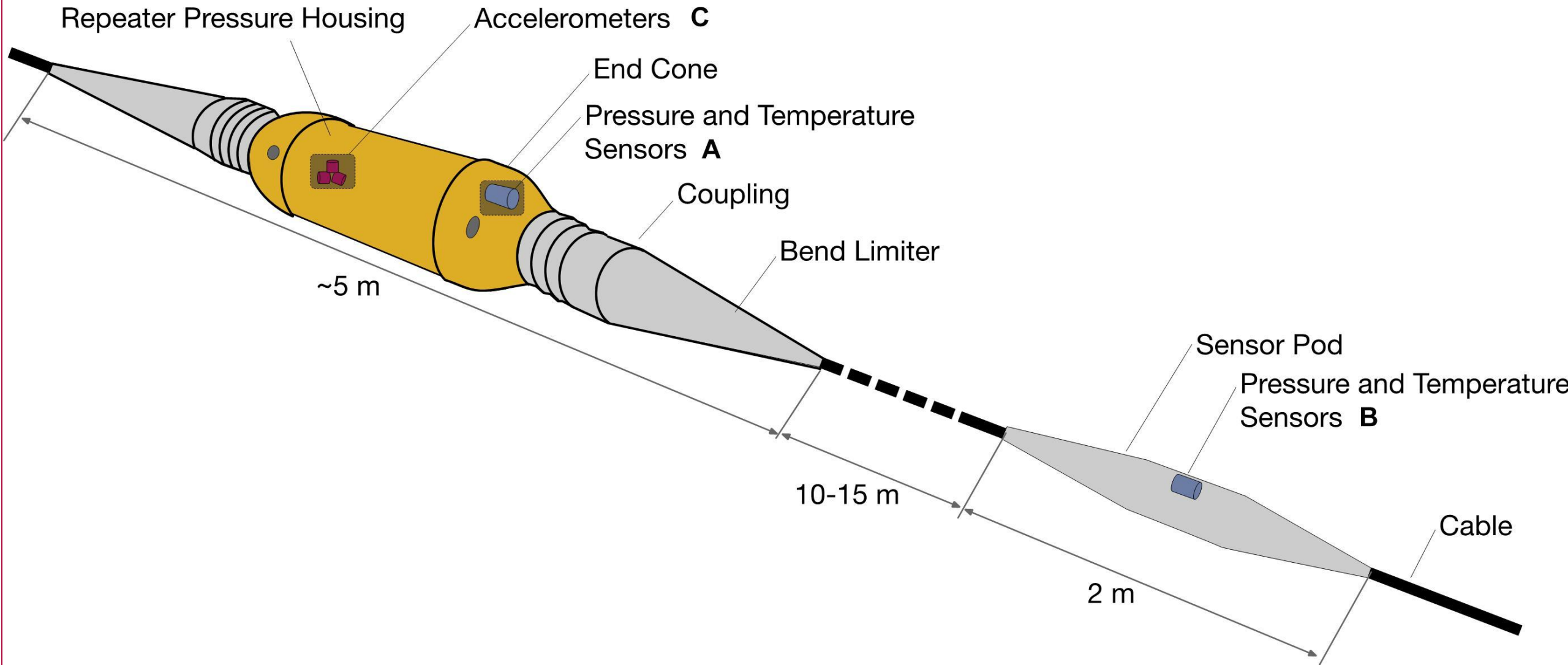
Some of the many global challenges



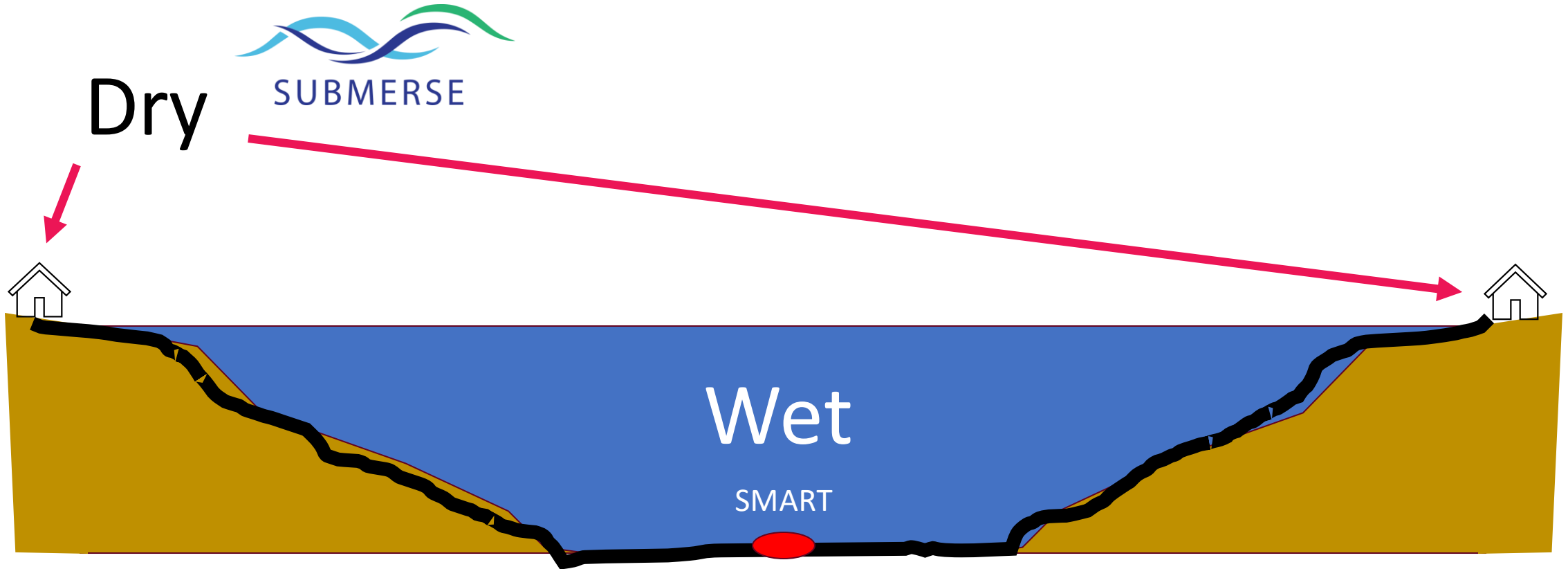




# SMART Cable concept



# Wet vs Dry Sensing





SUBMERSE

# Aim

Investigate utilising existing telecommunication systems, rather than dedicated submarine fibre, for monitoring the earth and oceans, without disrupting telecoms traffic.

## Objectives



Define a standardised concept architecture to integrate sensing technologies (DAS, SOP, SOP OTDR, SOP OFDR) into a single telecoms submarine cable system.

Complement existing infrastructures, datasets, and SMART cable concepts by developing a scalable data dissemination system from the new instruments to existing research infrastructures and communities.

Deploy a standardised prototype research instrument in at least 3 geographically diverse locations.

Scientifically validate and calibrate the instruments deployed

Produce open, machine readable, long-term datasets.

Develop the concept in collaboration with research communities, research infrastructures, Government institutions and industry.

Defining training and capacity building which allows for enhancing the collection, interpretation, processing and reuse of the data generated by the research instruments

Developing a roadmap and strategy to implement a sustainable research instrument and datasets from more countries



# Consortium Members

# 36 Month Project

**EFISCENTRE**  
**FCiências<sup>IP</sup>**  
 ASSOCIAÇÃO PARA A INVESTIGAÇÃO E DESENVOLVIMENTO DE CIÊNCIAS  
**Universidad de Alcalá**  
**NTNU**  
 Norwegian University of Science and Technology  
**INESCTEC**  
**GFZ**  
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**UNIVERSIDADE DE LISBOA**  
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Research Organisations

**NORDUnet**  
 Nordic Gateway for Research & Education  
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**DeiC**  
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**GÉANT**  
 Networks - Services - People  
**GRENA**  
 GEORGIAN RESEARCH AND EDUCATIONAL NETWORKING ASSOCIATION  
**Red CLARA**  
**FCT**  
 Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia  
**FCCN**  
 Computação Científica Nacional  
**PSNC**

NRENs

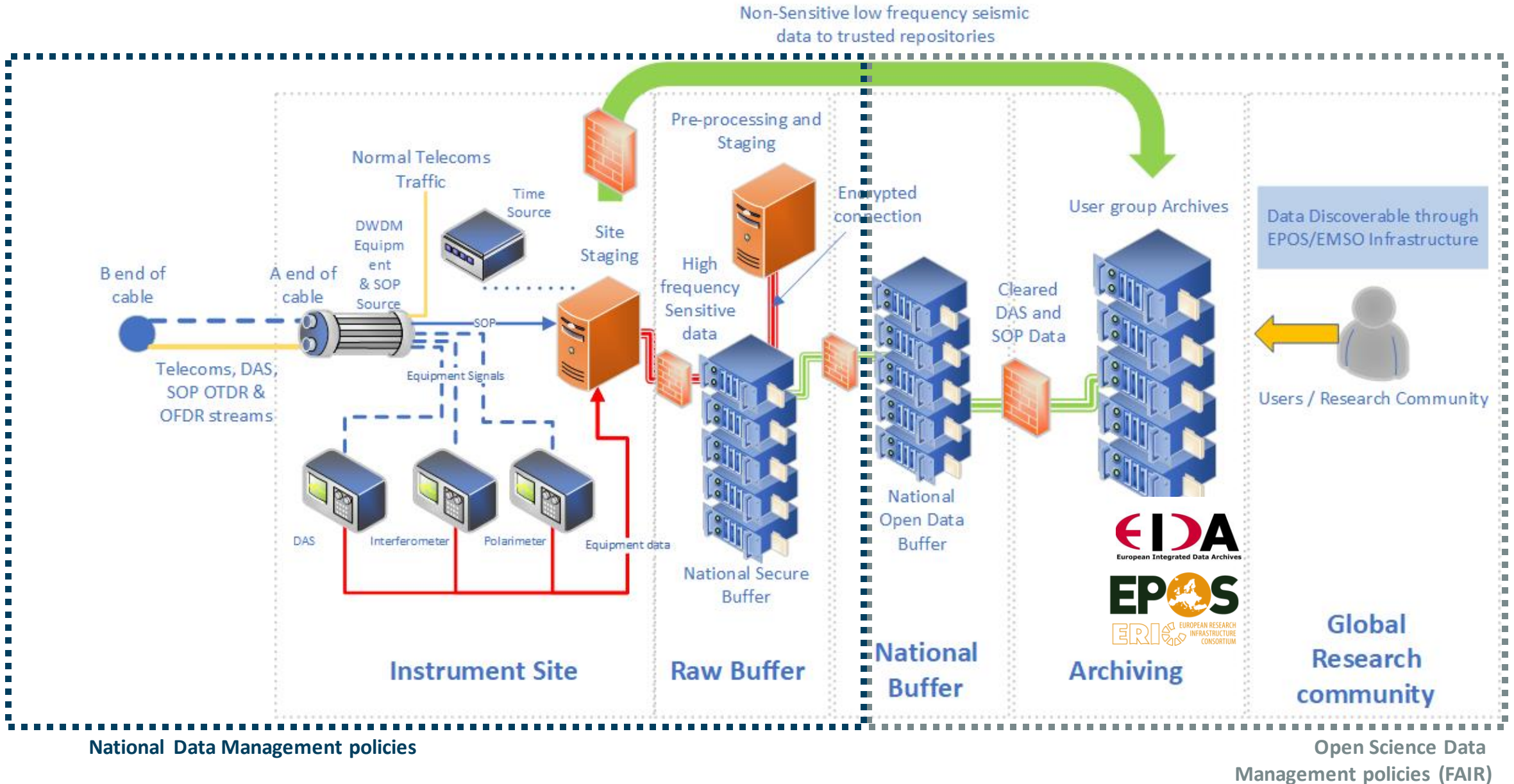
**ALCATEL SUBMARINE NETWORKS**  
**EllaLink**  
**Coriant**

Commercial organisations





# The high-level instrument architecture – per site



# SUBMERSE

## Indicative Site Locations



**SVALBARD, Norway**

(DAS, SOP, SOP OTDR)

Preveza

~~**RHODES, Greece**~~

(DAS, SOP, SOP OTDR)

**SINES, Portugal**

(DAS, SOP, SOP OTDR)

**MADEIRA, Portugal**

(DAS)

**FORTALEZA, Brazil**

(SOP, SOP OTDR)

SOP - State of Polarisation

DAS - Digital Acoustic Sensing

OTDR - Optical Time Domain

Reflectometer

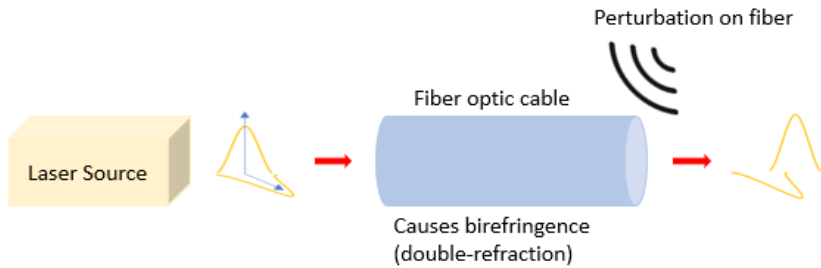


# The technologies

The background is a dark blue gradient with a grid of thin, light blue lines. Numerous vertical lines of varying heights and colors (cyan, magenta, orange) are scattered across the scene, resembling data streams or signal paths. Small circles in various colors (red, white, purple) are positioned at the ends of these lines, some appearing to glow. The overall aesthetic is futuristic and high-tech.



# Dry Optical sensing techniques

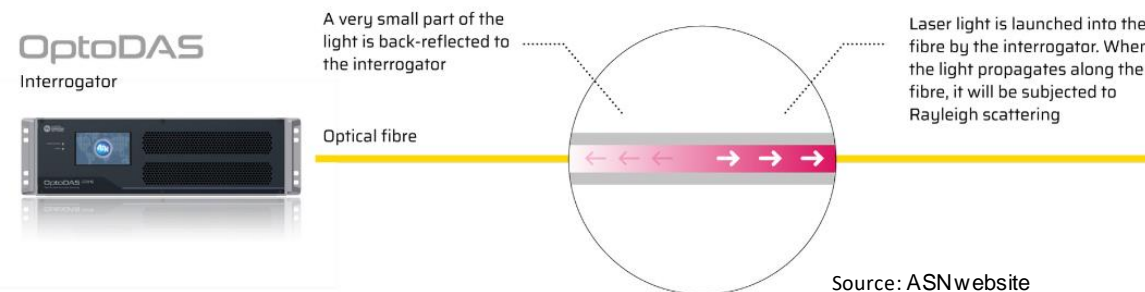


Source: Kristina Shizuka Yamase Skarvang

Tab. 1: Comparison of optical sensing techniques for seismic monitoring with optical fibers

	DAS [2,3]	Phase [4,5]	Polarization [6-8]
<b>Equipment Requirements</b>	DAS interrogator required	Ultra-stable laser source	Regular coherent linecards
<b>Fiber Requirements</b>	L-band or 3 c-band channels	Spectrum required	No impact on existing channel plan
<b>Sensitivity</b>	Medium/High	High	Medium
<b>Localization</b>	Yes	Feasible	Feasible
<b>Reach</b>	< 100 km	> 10,000 km	> 10,000 km
<b>Scalability</b>	Poor	Medium	Good

Adapted from Source: M. Cantono *et al.*, Seismic Sensing in Submarine Fiber Cables,



Source: ASN website

DAS is a technique for dynamic monitoring of strain distribution along an optical fibre

## DAS

*Distributed Acoustic Sensing*

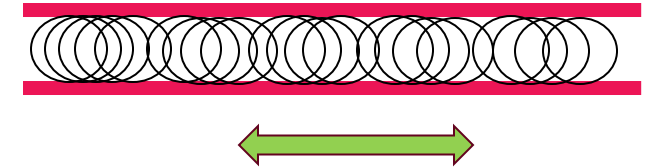
Uses reflections from impurities in the fibre when a laser light hits the side, to measure stretch and strain.

## SOP

*State of Polarisation*

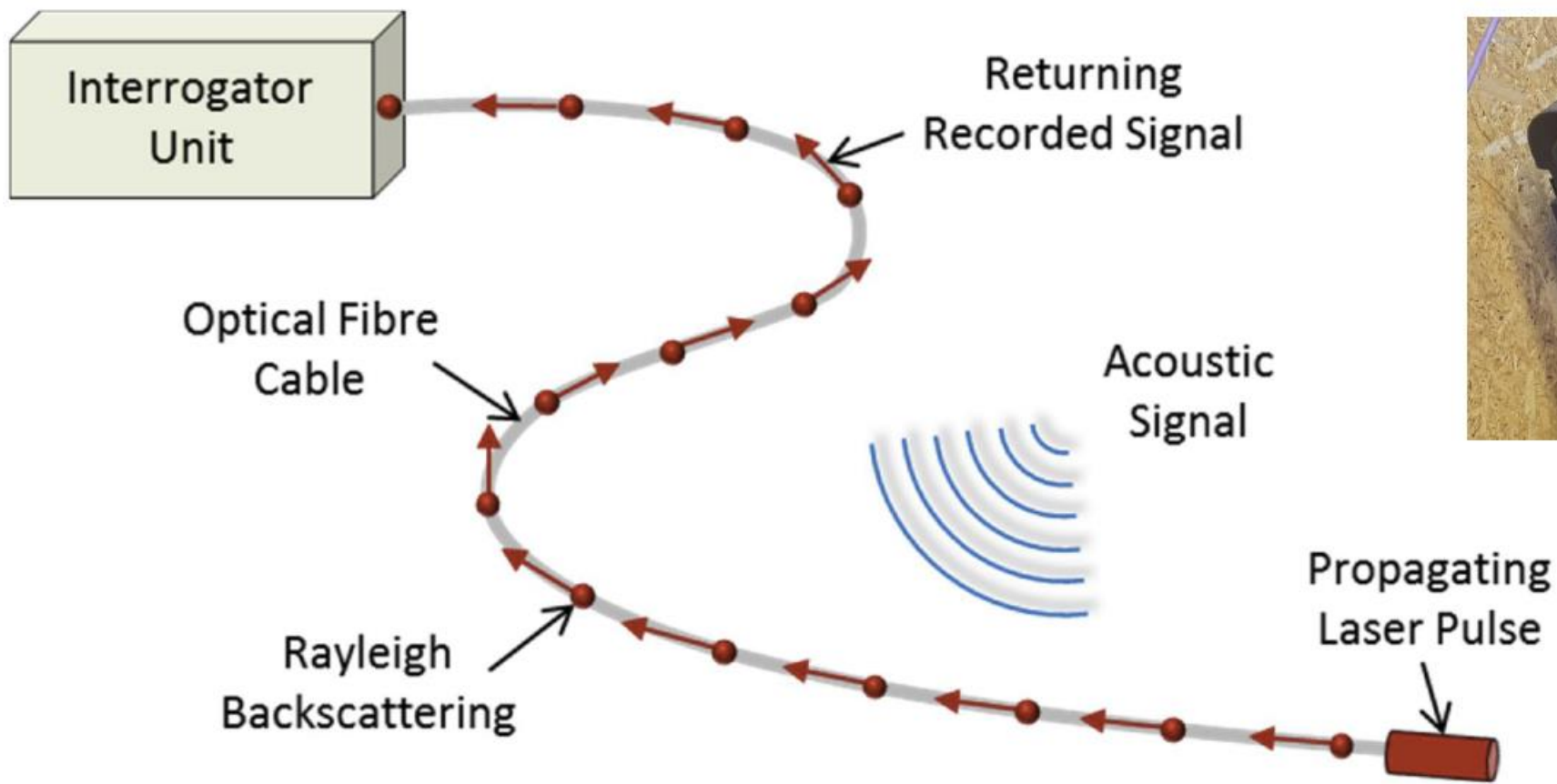
Uses the changes in position of the laser light as it exits the fibre to detect changes made to the cable the laser light travels through.

## IPD

*Introformetric Phase Detection*

Uses the changes in the time of arrival of the laser light when compared against a reference signal to detect changes to the cable

# DAS: Distributed Acoustic Sensing



Can also measure transmitted signal or perform polarization analysis at the end of the fibre: SOP

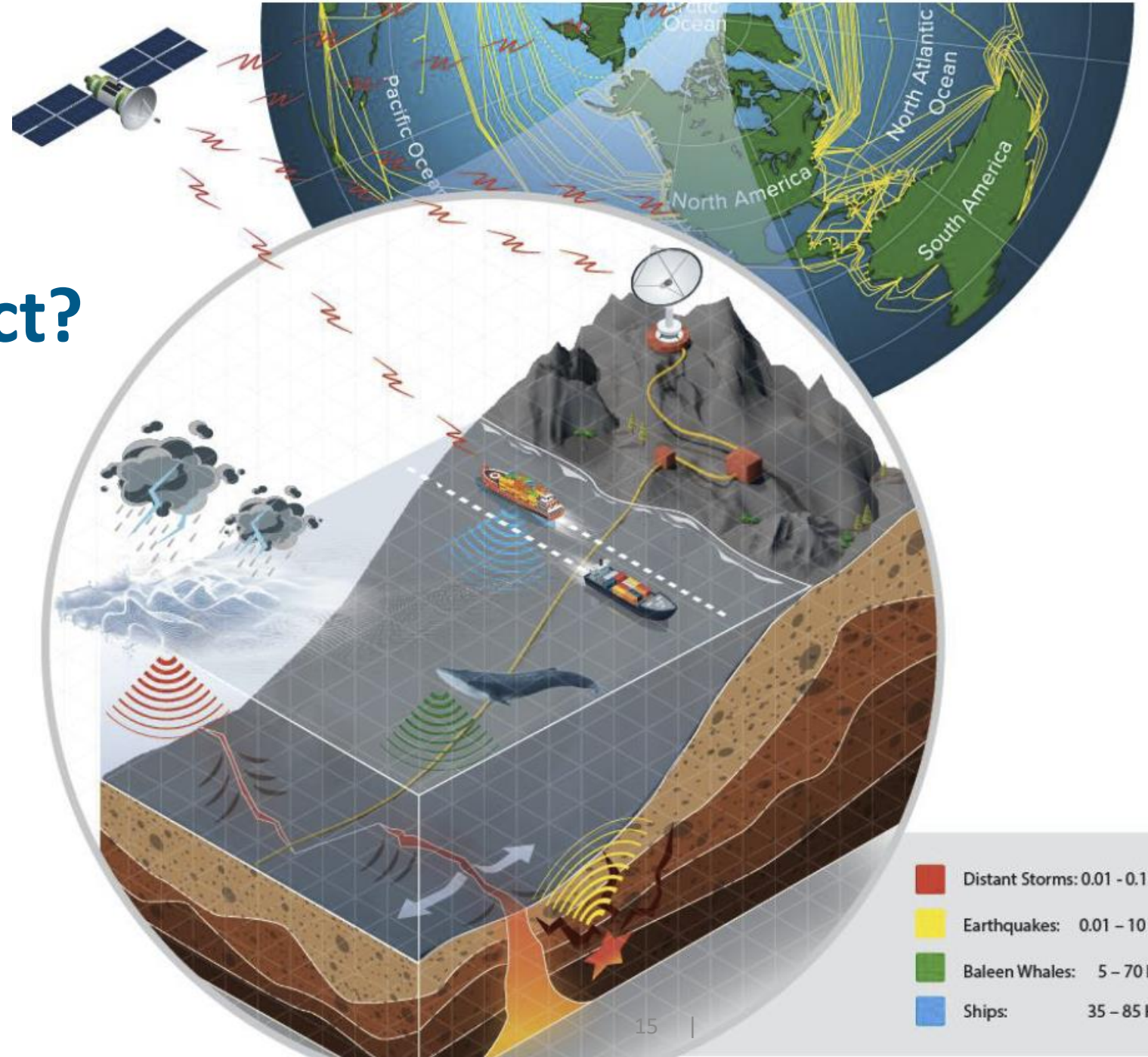
Figure adapted from Wilks et al. , CLIMIT poster 2016

With thanks to Prof Martin Landrø, NTNU

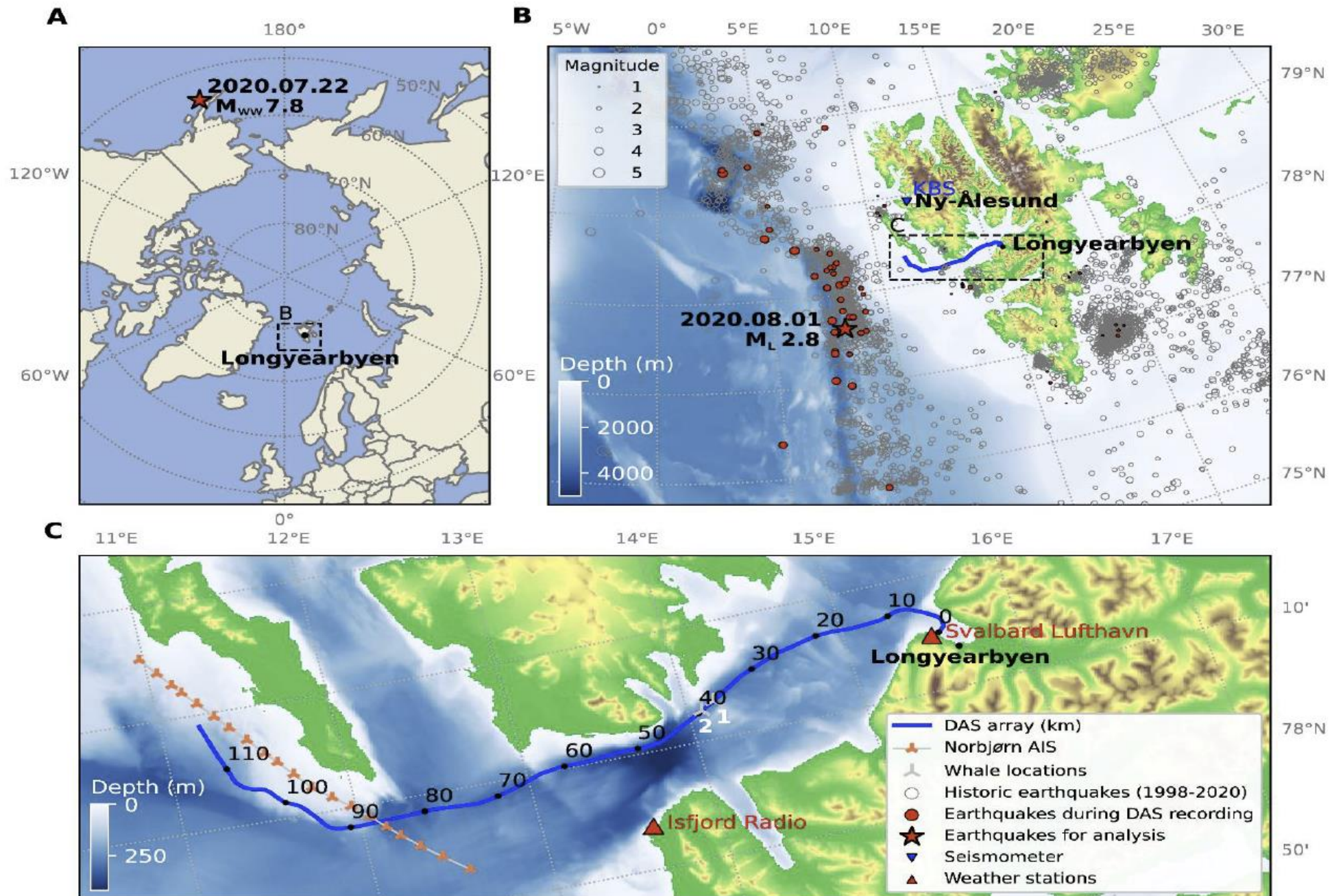


# What can DAS detect?

- Wales
- Storms
- Ships
- Earthquakes
- And more

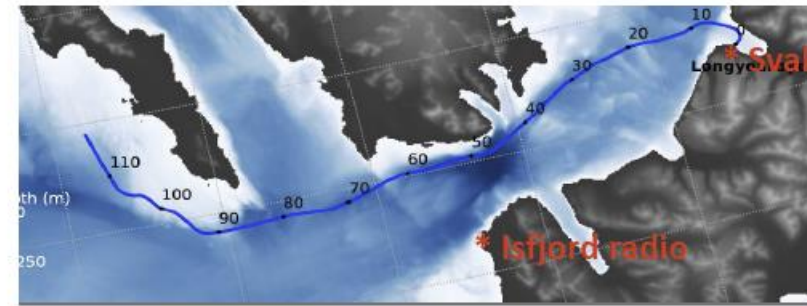
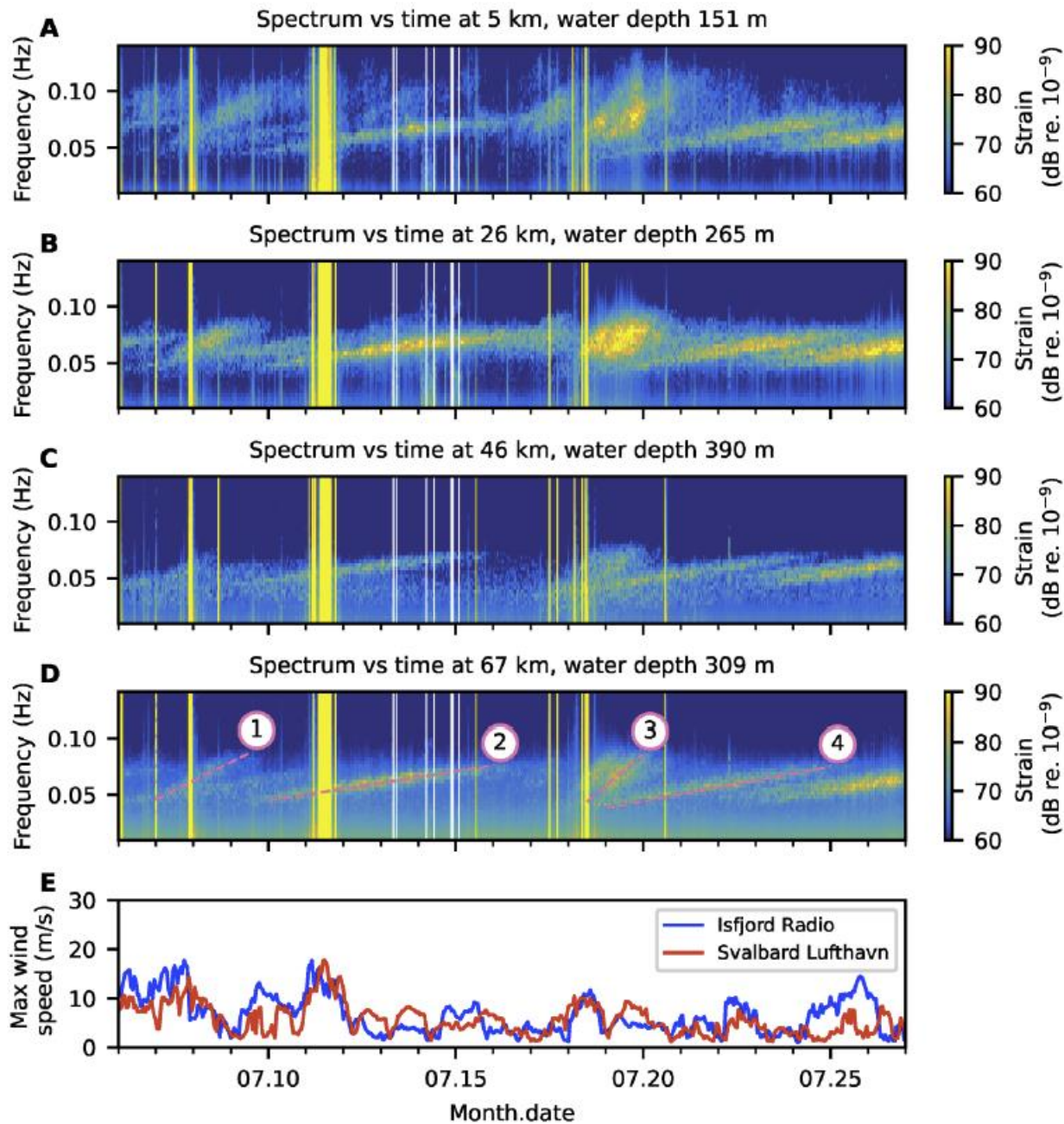






With thanks to Prof Martin Landrø, NTNU





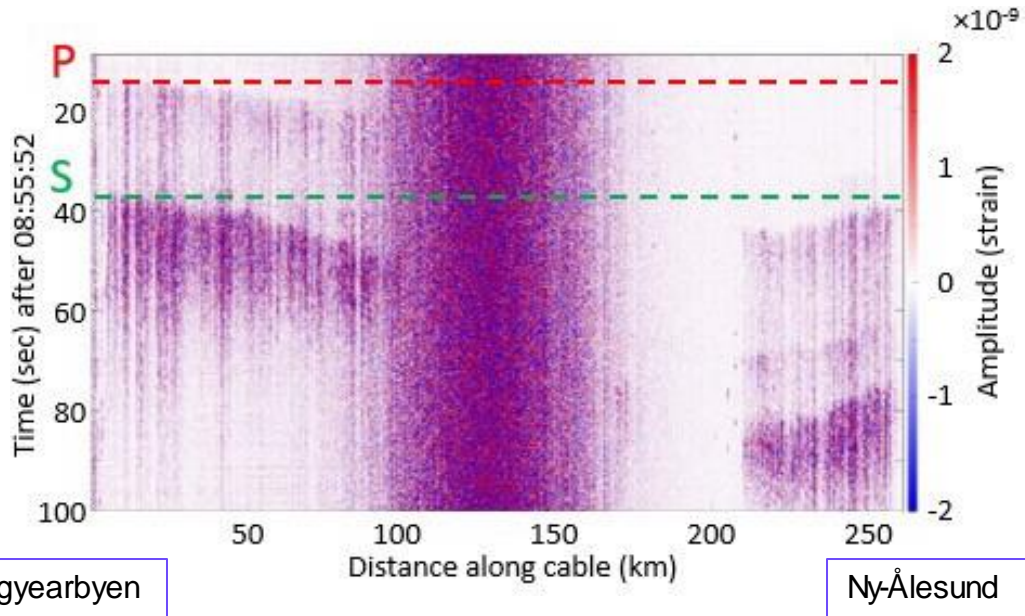
Munk, 1963:

$$\chi = \frac{g}{4\pi \left( \frac{df}{dt} \right)}$$

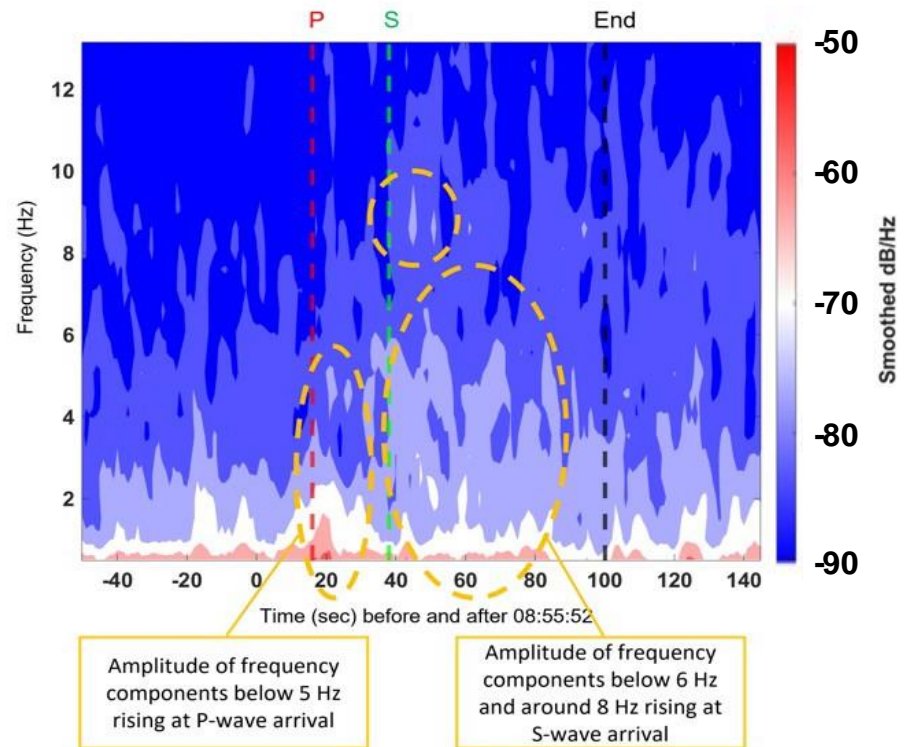
- 1: Edouard 4100 km
- 2: Offshore Brazil, 13000 km
- 3: Storm between Iceland and Greenland 2400 km
- 4: Offshore Brazil, 11 000 km



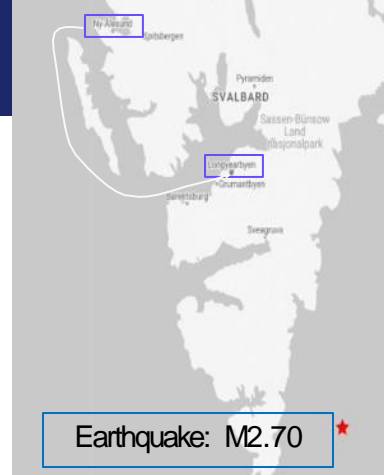
# Detection of M2.7 Earthquake with DASand SOP



Extract the timing the seismic waves hits the cable from DAS data



SOP variation corresponds with the timing of the Earthquake hitting the cable

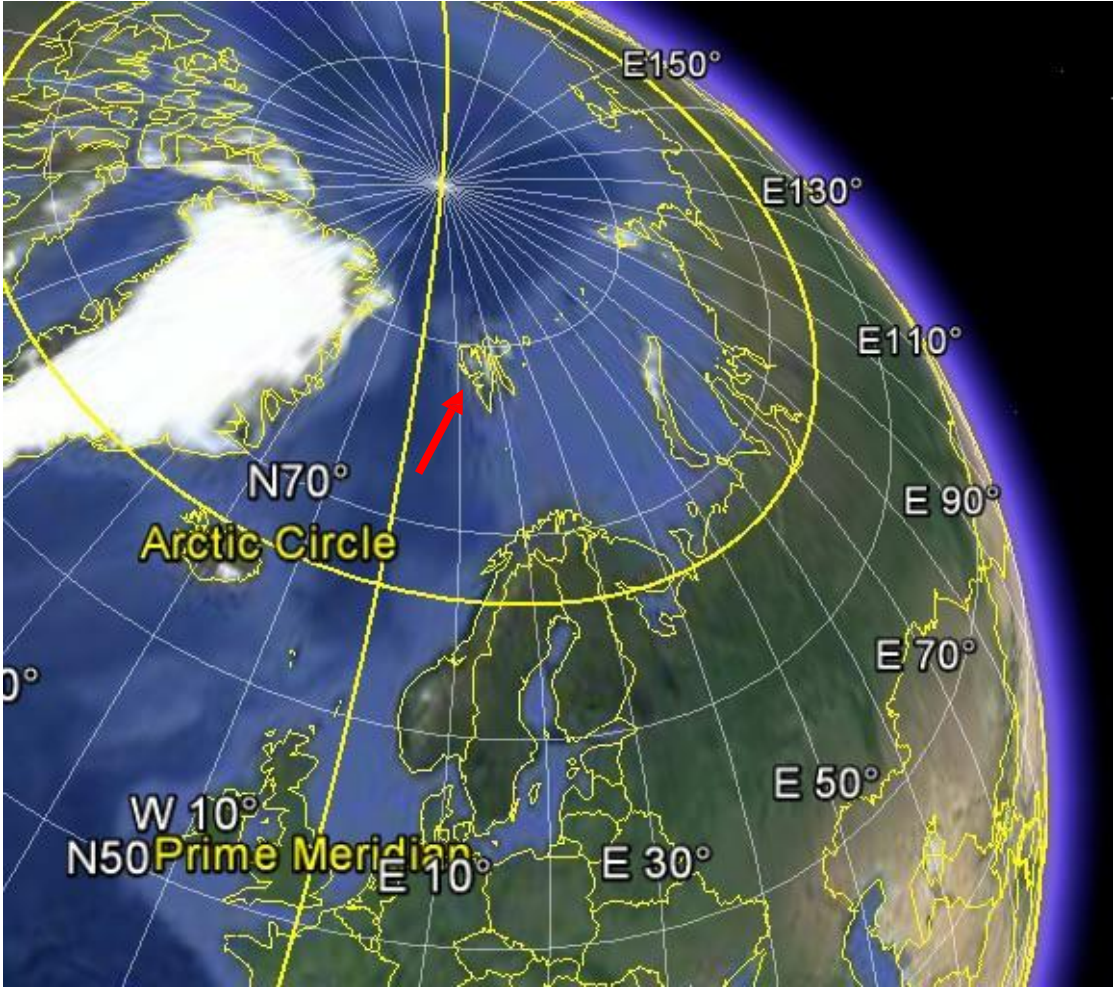


Earthquake: M2.7  
NORSAR seismometer

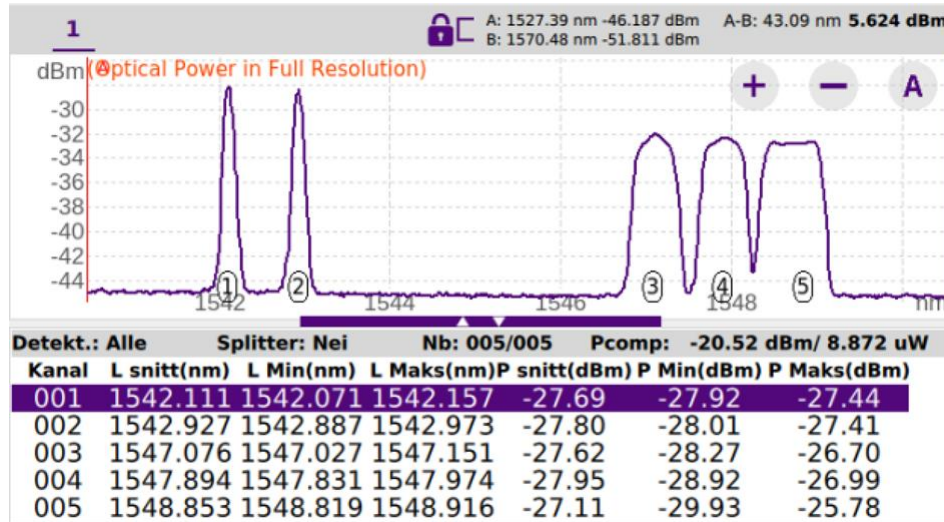
Source: Kristina Shizuka Yamase Skarvang et al., Observation of Local Small Magnitude Earthquakes using State Of Polarization Monitoring in a 250km Passive Arctic Submarine Communication Cable, OFC 2023



# Svalbard – close to the North Pole



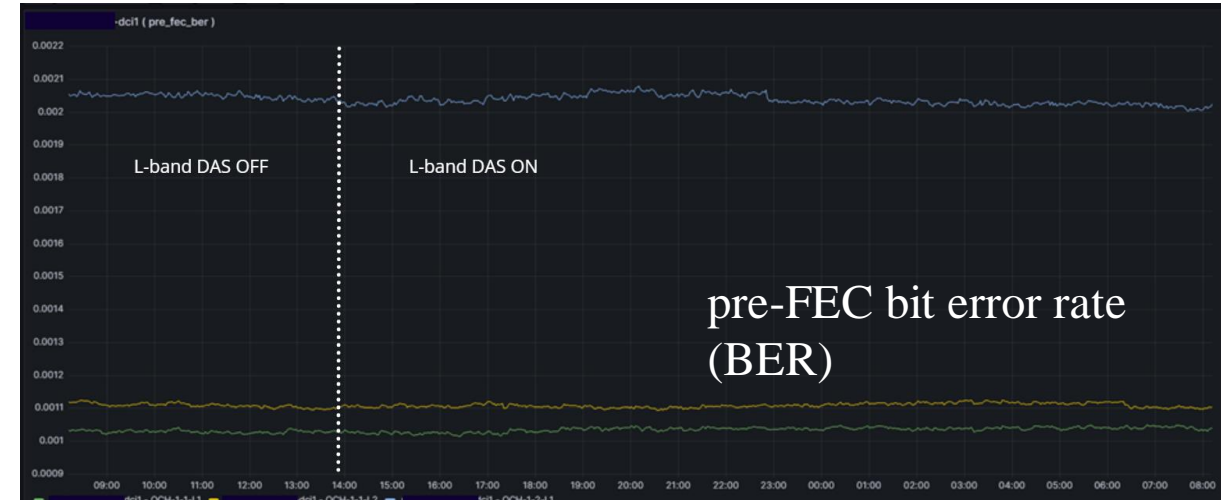
# DAS coexistence with DWDM



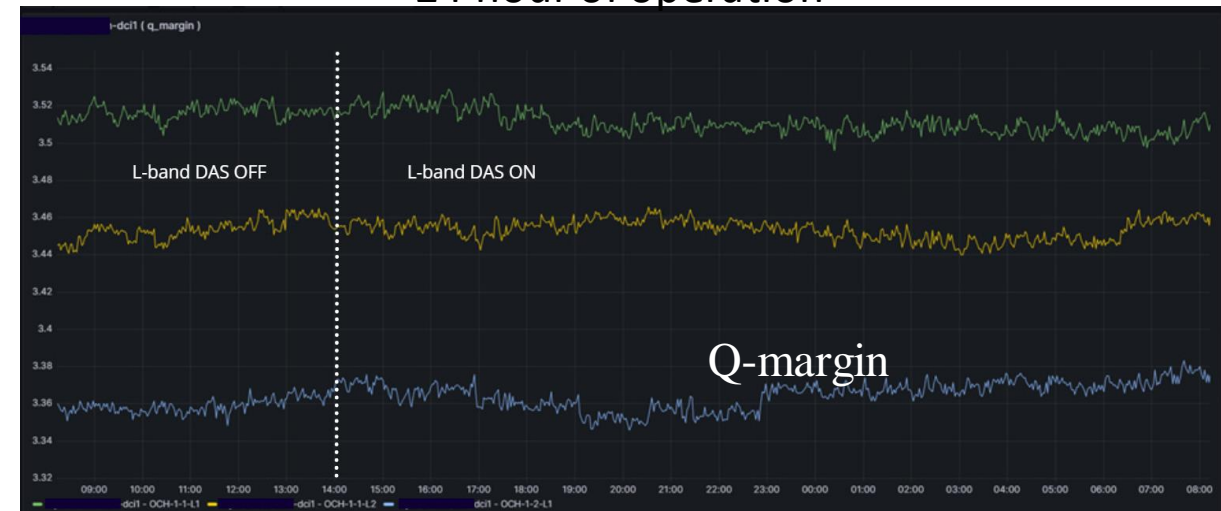
## 5 Active wavelengths monitored

1. 1G
2. 1G
3. 200 G
4. 200 G
5. 300 Gbps (Production traffic)

200G (62Gbaud QPSK with SDFEC-G2), 300G (84.23Gbaud 16SQAM with SDFEC-V. Monitored for 14 days in total with no degradation in signal



24 hour of operation

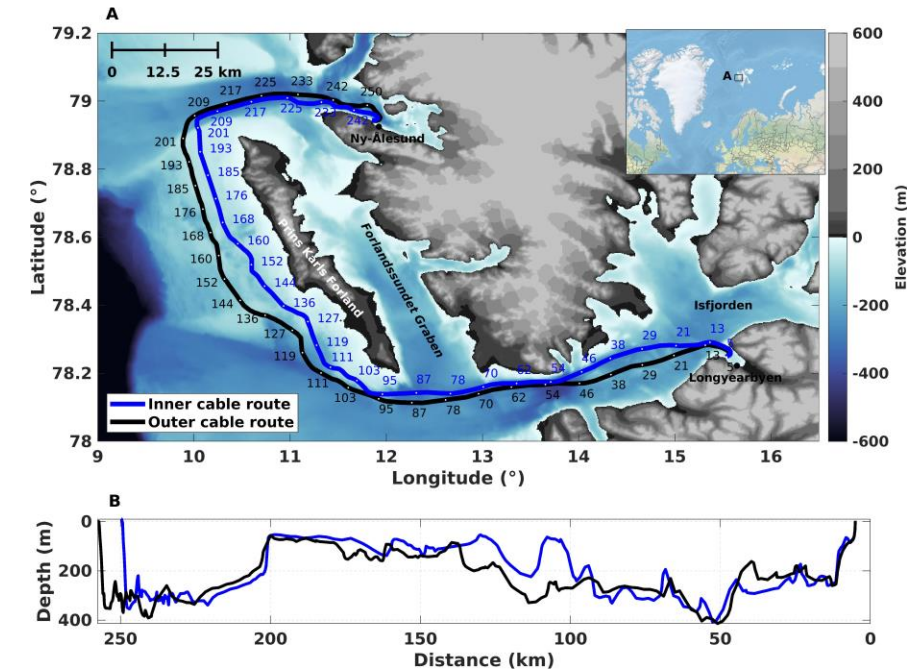
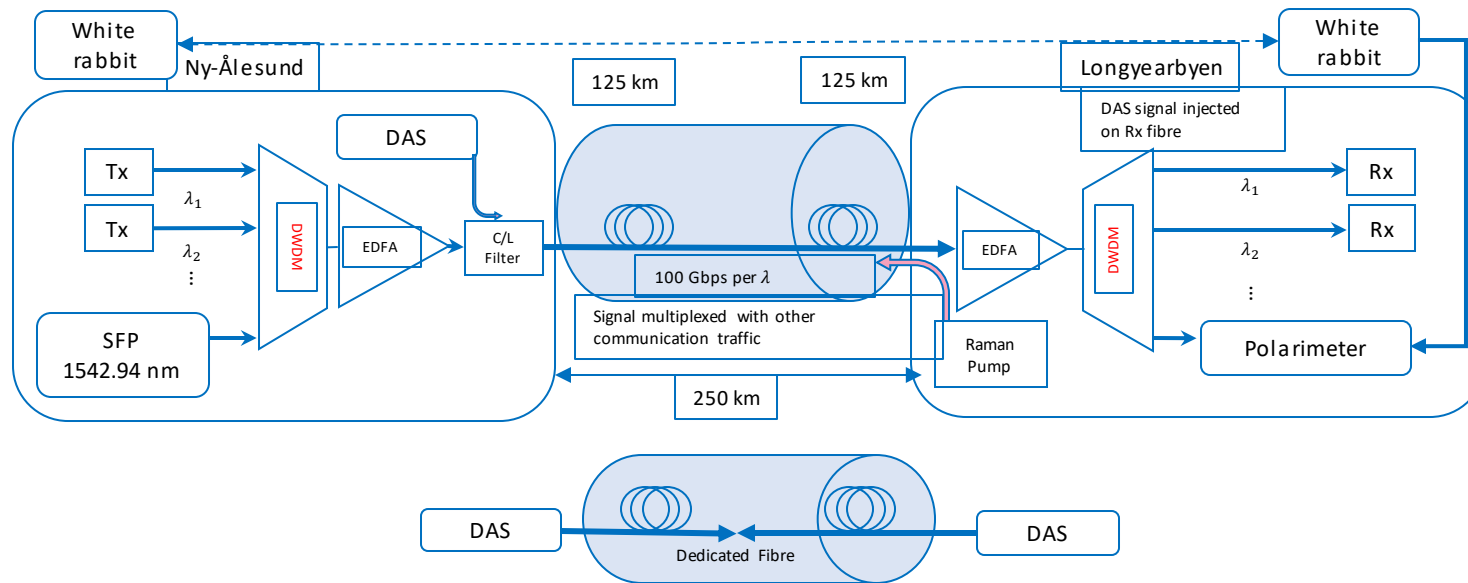


Credit: K. Bozorgebrahimi and R. Veisllari, SIKT

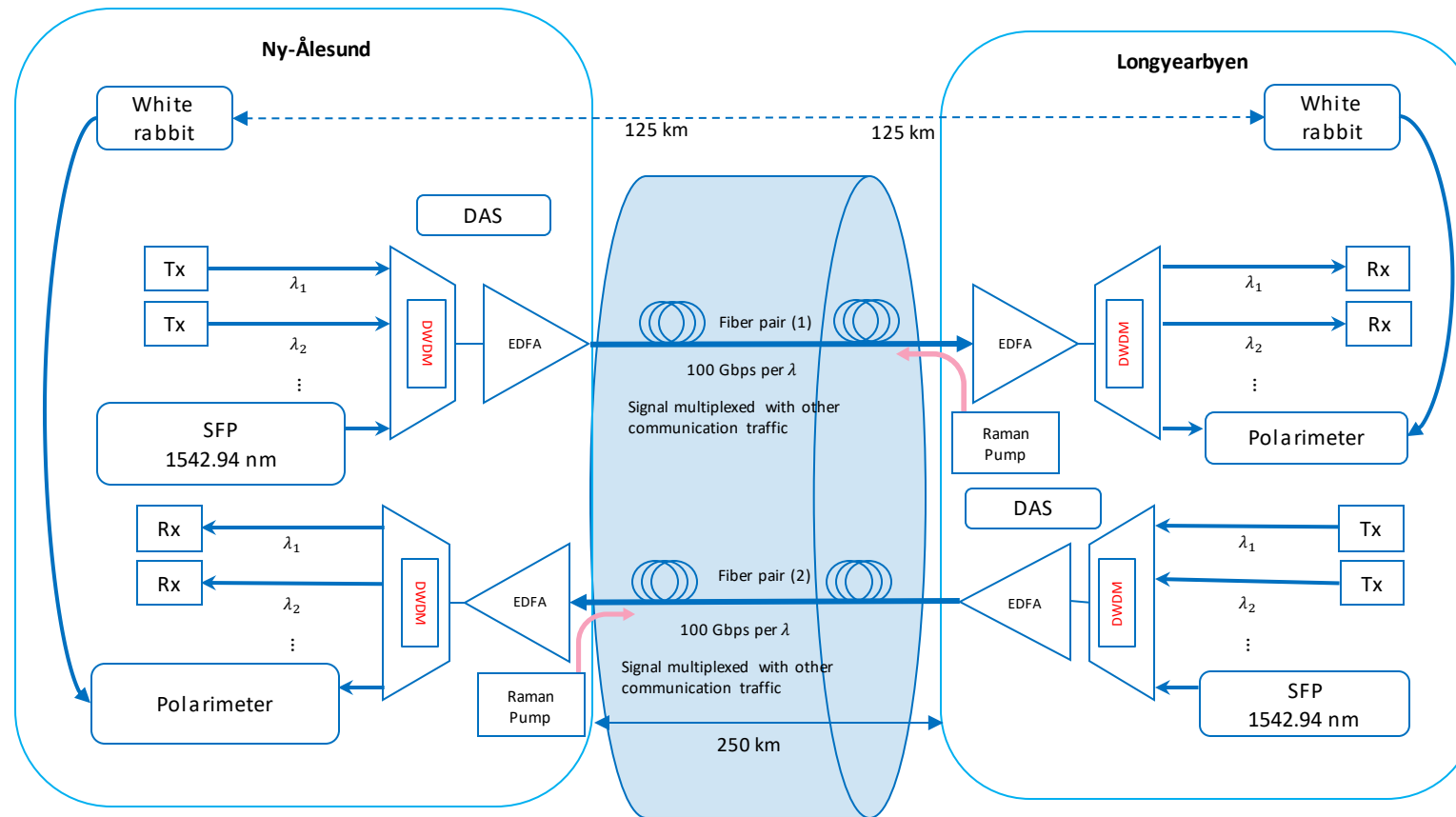


# 2nd Field Campaign: Svalbard

- Polarimeter (PM1000, Novoptel) connected to a live DWDM link
- 2 x CESNET PolBox (Polarimeters) connected to a live DWDM link
- White rabbit protocol running between the two end sites
- 2 x DAS (OptoDAS, ASN) interrogators connected to DWDM system in L band
- DAS (OptoDAS, ASN) interrogators connected to two dedicated fibres in each cable



# New SOP experiment – bi directional with white rabbit









# Thank You

Any questions?

[www.geant.org](http://www.geant.org)



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