Agreement Signed for Laying Japan-U.S. Cable

Scheme of Pacific Telephone Cable Lines

Legend
- Pacific Telephone Cable Line
- Established Cable Line
- Scheduled Cable Line
Submarine Telephone Cable Will Be World's Longest

An agreement was signed in New York yesterday (Japan Time) for laying a trans-Pacific submarine cable which will become the world's longest, extending over a distance of 10,496 kilometers.

The $25,700 million project will be undertaken jointly by the Kokusai Denshin Denwa Co., Ltd. (KDD), the American Telephone and Telegraph Co. and the Hawaii Telephone Co.

The agreement has already been signed by KDD in Tokyo and AT&T in Honolulu, and the cable will be laid by the latest unattached coaxial cables.

A large portion of cable materials will be supplied by a specially established Japanese company, financed jointly by the Furukawa Electric Co., Sumitomo Electric Industries Co. and Fuji Electric Work Co.

Orders for 3,000 kilometers of cables have already been received by this new company, the Ocean Cable Co., Ltd., which will manufacture them by technical cooperation offered by the Western Electric Co. of the U.S.

The new cable, 35 kilometers in length, will be laid at a depth of 12 meters below the sea. The laying will start in 1964 and be completed by July 1 of the same year.

The telephone cable linking Japan with the U.S. will be laid via Guam, Wake and Midway as far as Hawaii where it will be connected to the existing line extending to the U.S. mainland.

The landing point Japan will be the coast of Sagami Bay and that in Hawaii has been tentatively located at Makaha on Oahu Island. Submarine cables for connections between coastal areas will be laid from Makaha to Haiku, also on the Oahu Island.

The new cable route will join up with the planned British Commonwealth Pacific Cable (facing Vancouver, Hawaii, the Fiji Islands, Oakland and Sydney) in Hawaii in 1964 and a planned cable route between Japan and Southeast Asia in Japan.

The single line cable, with a diameter of 32 millimeters, will contain an electronic relay at intervals of some 37 kilometers. The relay will be able to handle 126 telephone circuits of three-kilkylo line.

Construction will start early in 1964 and be scheduled to be completed by July 1 of the same year.

Of the total construction cost, $11,100 million, slightly more than 50% will be borne by the KDD. An additional $3,500 million will be required for the construction of a cable-laying ship of 4,500 tons and other vessels, bringing KDD's total share to around $15,500 million.

Part of this amount will be covered by KDD's own funds but $10,000 million will be procured from outside. The total cost of the project, with an estimated $25,700 million, will be incurred by the three companies.

Oceanographic surveys for selecting the cable routes have already been finished.

The agreement, signed yesterday, will provide for the share of construction cost, sharing of ownership, allocation of circuits, and share of responsibility for maintenance.

The agreement, which also defines the rights and duties of the contracting parties during construction and use of the cable, is based on the spirit of equality and mutual benefit.

Patterson after the agreement, the existing trans-Atlantic cable owned by the U.S., Britain and Canada, it requires each party to bear the cost and responsibility in an amount commensurate to the number of circuits used. The proposed project will further spur demand for cable because it is expected to consume the same amount as in the present project.

The Ocean Cable Co. will play an important role in this project. Although there were rumors that the company will incure heavy debts, it will be compelled to disband after the first project.

Prospects are bright in view of the various communication projects planned in this country. A specialized manufacturer has a definite advantage in this age of mushrooming general makers, and the company is sure to expect more equipment for telegraph, telephone and radio communications.