

Credits

The Reference Model has been developed for:

European Space Agency - www.esa.int



By:



TNO - Information and Communication Technology,
The Netherlands, www.tno.nl



Avanti Communications Ltd,
United Kingdom
www.avanti-communications.com



ActNow Alliance, Italy
www.actnowalliance.org



IICD - International Institute for Communication and Development
The Netherlands, www.iicd.org

The Capacity Building projects have been locally developed by:

in Man (Cote d'Ivoire):

- ACIM, Association culturelle Informatique et médical
- CHR (Centre Hospitalier Régional) de Man
- Centre Mariapolis Victoria, Mouvement des Focolari

in Fontem (Cameroon):

- LATS (Lebialem Association for Twinning of Schools)
- Our Lady of Wisdom College in Fontem-Nveh
- Mary Health of Africa (MHA) hospital in Fontem-Nveh

in Bamako (Mali):

- SOMIM (Société Malienne d'Imagerie Médicale)
- 4 regional hospitals in: Bamako, Timbuktu, Mopti, Gao
- RAFT (Réseau en Afrique Francophone pour la Télémedecine)
- REIMICON



Project web page:

<http://telecom.esa.int/telecom/www/object/index.cfm?fobjectid=28865>

The Speakers



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IGF Internet
Governance
Forum
Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt
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Workshop n. 328

Access
to satellite communications
as a key
for **Capacity Building:**
a reference model
looking for
affordable costs



**Wednesday,
November 17
14:00 – 15:30**

Aim of the workshop is to discuss with participants from governments, private sector and civil society the first results from a **developed reference model** and evaluate together **potential solutions** to the issue of **providing satellite access** at **sustainable costs**.

Background

The Millennium Development Goals, together with the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) have paved the way for a number of Capacity Building (CB) projects related to Information Communication Technology (ICT) in developing countries. In particular, Satellite Communication (satcom) technology and knowledge can contribute to achieving education worldwide, especially in areas or regions that have no or a bad infrastructure, as stated in Geneva 2003 WSIS Plan of Action C2:

"Governments should take action, in the framework of national development policies, in order to [...] encourage the use of unused wireless capacity, including satellite [...] to provide access in remote areas, especially in developing countries with economies in transition, and to improve low-cost connectivity in developing countries."

In 2007, the European Space Agency (ESA) issued an Invitation to Tender in the framework of the Advanced Research on Telecommunications Systems Programme (ARTES Element 1) for a study activity, in line with the action plan proposed by UN, whose underlying goal is the definition and the validation of a Reference Model for Capacity Building projects using satellite communications.

A consortium led by TNO, supported by Avanti Communications and two NGOs (IICD and ActNow Alliance) won the study contract with the project "Capacity Building through ICT" (CBICT).

A reference model for Capacity Building Through satellite communications

The model definition started in March 2008 with identification of sectors in the developing countries where capacity building projects through ICT might have the most added value. Based on this analysis, existing CB projects have been studied and their lessons-learned gathered, taking into account both technical issues and human and organisational aspects. These inputs have been bundled with the experience of members of the consortium to establish successfully CB projects, to produce a first iteration of a reference model.

This model, a structured set of guidelines, has been applied to two capacity building projects in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA), in order to verify model consistency, significance and usability.

The projects, in Mali and in Cote d'Ivoire, led by the two NGOs in the consortium in conjunction with ESA, are run by local partners.

Local project teams, together with their stakeholders, have used the model and offered their observations on its usability and effectiveness. The model validation phase has been completed and users' recommendations have been collected.

Some of the main results will be shared and discussed with workshop participants.

Looking for a business model for satcom sustainability

During the study it became clear that in developing countries there is a lack of proper business model(s) to address the mismatch between Civil Society requirements and corporate satellite provisioning .

On one hand, satcom providers operating in SSA are very expensive, on the other hand, local institutions and NGOs require broadband access to perform CB activities like telemedicine, distance learning, media production, etc.

One possible solution is intelligent demand aggregation and management.

The idea would be to arrange and organise satellite capacity across a group of different users (NGOs, schools, hospitals, internet cafés, farmers, etc.) in developing SSA countries. Entities willing and able to fulfill the role of satcom provider for shared usage, including the regulatory aspects, would need to be identified. A network of different organizations might share a dedicated satcom connection and the related costs. Satcom providers might setup a new service offering, capable to spread the service through different organizations and managing the contracted time-plan. Governments might encourage such initiatives, with appropriate regulations and inter-regional or international agreements.

One aim of the workshop is to collaborate with participants from governments, the private sector and civil society to discuss and evaluate potential solutions to this issue.

