



AfriConnect Profile

AfriConnect UK

Managing Director Mark Bennett founded AfriConnect in 1996 in response to developing ICT requirements across the African continent, after 12 years based in Zambia, having previously been Managing Director of, ZamNet Communication Systems Ltd., which, outside of South Africa was the first ISP in Sub-Saharan Africa.

The company has recently grown from its UK base, back into Africa, establishing offices in Tanzania, Zambia and Ghana. These offices are staffed with personnel with extensive experience of successfully deploying and supporting these technologies in the local environment.

AfriConnect has found its understanding of local people, supply chain, and material resource issues together with its technology expertise means that it can deliver sustainable solutions into developing countries.



AfriConnect specialises in the provision of sustainable solutions which are resilient to the remote and harsh environments in which they are deployed.

Delivering ICT Into Africa

AfriConnect's experience spans a range of ICT technologies and implementations:

- Internet access specialists, by satellite and wireless
- User friendly customer network software for bespoke applications and satellite network access
- Network management tools, content filtering, anti-spam software, traffic shaping tools, and statistics
- Design and provision of local LAN infrastructure
- Local and Wide area networks, Leased-Lines, ISDN, ADSL, Cable
- Wireless short and long haul links
- VSAT terminals, transportable VSAT, Thuraya and Iridium satellite phones
- WiFi Hot Spots, PDA's
- Network security, email management, remote support for networks

AfriConnect has specialist staff that have extensive experience of living and working in developing countries. This on-the-ground knowledge is underpinned by a broad range of IT, networking and telecommunications skills.

In the case of satellite solutions, AfriConnect has practical experience of deploying dedicated networks, shared bandwidth across multiple VSAT locations and also its use in tropical areas where heavy rainfall can dramatically impact availability.

For detailed information on projects undertaken, please refer to the AfriConnect Experience Document.



AfriConnect's view is that there should be no place on earth where staff cannot have access to connectivity

Sustainable Solutions



AfriConnect are involved in many projects across the Continent (see <http://www.africonnect.com/clients> for further details) including expanding the malaria research network, and of designing and installing equivalent health-based systems in a number of French speaking countries globally for Institut Pasteur.

AfriConnect's practical field implementations and support in areas where power, basic ICT skills, and above all funding is limited, means we can apply real-world experience to all the projects with which it is involved.

AfriConnect has been helping organisations to get licenses through active use of local contacts. Organisations such as NGO's often have close ties with government officials and practical advice can be given to facilitate licensing.

Ensuring that adequate support is available post installation with basic on-site training and mentoring provided during visits is vital. AfriConnect has found its one-stop-shop approach is extremely useful to clients with limited on-site resources and budgets.

On-going monitoring of connectivity to remote sites allows client field staff to concentrate on their core organisation activities with remote support being used to rectify any connectivity problems.

Project Support

- AfriConnect will manage the whole project to ensure that installation is timely and an Ethernet interface to any existing networks is operational.
- During installation, AfriConnect will not only have an installation engineer on site to erect the dish and antenna and install hardware, but there will also be local network engineering staff to assist with the connection into existing PC/network.
- Support will normally be provided via either email, VoIP phone line, or by remote access to the client network over the new satellite link. This support will be proactive in ensuring that the system is working and that all data traffic is getting through in timely fashion.
- Customers will be responsible for obtaining their own VSAT licenses in each country. AfriConnect can also provide initial assistance and examples of how to apply, and what has been successful for other users.

Key Clients

- United States National Library of Medicine
- US Centers for Disease Control: CDC Kenya Communications
- World Bank Schools Project: Uganda
- COMESA – Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
- Social Recovery Project: Zambia
- College of Medicine, University of Malawi, Blantyre
- Institut Pasteur
- US Navy / Ministry of Health / NIH: Ghana
- International Network for the Availability of Scientific Publications (INASP)
- Medical Research Council (MRC), Gambia