



# Sustainable ICT in Rural Africa

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# Summary:

- What is Connect Africa
- Current Challenges for rural ICT in rural Africa
- Finding the solutions
- A proposed solution
- Its sustainability
- Next steps

# What is Connect Africa:





# Current challenges for rural Africa:

1. Access / connectivity
2. Infrastructure
3. Cost
4. Literacy / Content
5. Sustainability
6. Power Supply
7. De-regulation of cellular networks



# Finding the Solutions:

- Lessons from the mobile boom in Africa
- Step down to reality
- Step 1 universally is a public phone
- Communities (Farmers) will then direct the solutions:
  - Look
  - Listen
  - Learn
  - Link



# A Proposed Solution:

- Network of community pay-phones for deep rural Zambia
- Using Iridium and Thuraya satellite networks
- Thuraya PCO & Iridium “BravoTel”
- **Competitive 36c (US) per minute call rate**
- 60 kbps Connectivity
- Tiered service levels – HQ, Provincial Hub, District Hub, Village Hub
- Local operator at village level to assist community
- Routine regional service, maintenance and cash management
- Expand the service portfolio in line with demand



# Sustainability:

- Each hub is a business
- Each village phone is a micro enterprise
- All information and services are paid for by recipient or service provider:
  - Calls and connectivity by the user at affordable rates
  - Information/Content delivery by the provider
- Multiple service delivery is facilitated by the network (at a cost to the service provider):
  - Communication services
  - Business services
  - Government services
- Ongoing monitoring, assessment and capacity building
- Build up from step 1 – organic growth – pull, not push
- Iteration - go back and check – we can, we’ve a routine service schedule
- Highlight the demand spikes and focus the resources
- Bring in partnerships – often the most unlikely pairings are most successful

# Next Steps:

- Deploy a trial network of 8 pay-phones in rural central Zambia (Oct 2008)
- Look, listen & learn for 3 months
- Assess and analyse results of the trial
- Link the relevant technologies and services with the communities
- Initiate policy and regulatory feedback sessions with government/regulator
- Apply for a National Service Provider Licence (NSP) for rural Zambia
- Initiate a national roll-out strategy with satellite network partners
- Use Zambia as a model for the rest of Africa and beyond
- See you next year





# Thank You

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# Africa:



# Map of Zambia



# Thuraya PCO & Iridium BravoTel



# Rural Rainy Season Reality:





# Zinc Air Fuel Cell: 12V

