

TNC 2018 - Lightning Talk Presentation Proposal

Title:	SA NREN's strategic investment in the WACS undersea cable
Keywords:	WACS, submarine/undersea cable, purchasing model, opportunity, collaboration
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Author Bio:	Mr. Siju Mammen is the head of Network Engineering at the South African Research Network (SANReN) at the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) since October 2011. He has been responsible for the pilot implementation of the South African Identity Federation (SAFIRE) and for the planning and rolling out of network infrastructure for the South African NREN. He holds a Bachelors and an Honours degree in Computer Engineering as well as a Masters degree in Nuclear Engineering.
Abstract:	In 2013 SANReN invested in the West Africa Cable System (WACS) which entitled us to the right-of-use of 7,47% of the design capacity of the cable system . This was a departure from the traditional way that NRENs purchased undersea capacity, i.e. buying the capacity from a telco. The initial impetus for the purchase was to cater for the requirements of the Square Kilometre Array (SKA) project. However, this investment has become much more than this and is now one of the most important assets for the SA NREN. The SA NREN has leveraged this capacity for the benefit of the community in various ways. This talk will discuss the process followed for the investment, the advantages of owning a portion of the cable system and some perceived disadvantages. Over and above this, the South African experience suggests that this is a model that other NRENs should consider adopting where possible. This idea will be briefly explored.
Poster?:	This topic is best presented as a talk, and so I would not be interested in making a poster on this topic.