

Regional Networks, Communities and Ecosystems Americas Africa Research and eduCation Lightpaths (AARCLight) Study: Year 1 findings

Julio E. Ibarra, PI Heidi Morgan, Co-PI Chip Cox, Co-PI Luis Lopez, Co-PI



AARCLight: Americas Africa Research and eduCation Lightpaths, NSF Award #OAC-1638990

Planning activity that aims to

- Define a strategy for research and education network connectivity between the US and West Africa along the South Atlantic
- Coordinate planning efforts among stakeholders in the U.S., Africa, and Brazil
- Understand the potential impact
 - From the use of the offered spectrum
 - To create economies of scale
 - Towards serving the broadest communities of interest in research and education



Collaborative Partners

UbuntuNet Alliance

- WACREN: West and Central African Research and Education Network
- TENET: The Tertiary Education and Research Network of South Africa
- SANReN: The South African National Research Network
- SABEN: South African Broadband Education Networks
- ANSP: Academic Network of São Paulo
- RNP: Rede Nacional de Ensino e Pesquisa
- CLARA: Cooperation of Advanced Research and Education Networks in Latin America
- Internet2
- Florida LambdaRail





New Data-Intensive, Network-Dependent science instruments in the southern hemisphere:

- Large Synoptic Survey Telescope (LSST) in Chile
- SKA in South Africa and Australia

New submarine cables in South Atlantic

Network aggregation emerging in the southern hemisphere

Potential to leverage network infrastructure linking the U.S., South America, and Africa



MeerKAT Radio Telescope

- MeerKAT is a 64-dish system
- MeerKAT will be integrated into the mid-frequency component of SKA
- Generates data at a rate of 4.7Gbps
- Data is transported either by tapes, or scientists travel to South Africa
- Data is collected and digitized at each antenna and then streamed via optical link to the Karoo Array Processor Building (KAPB) for science processing
- Clock signal is distributed from a central point to remote dishes





SKA Data Transport Requirements

- SKA will be the world's largest radio telescope
- Australia and South Africa are the host countries
- SKA Regional Science and Engineering Centers (SRC) will provide access to
 - SKA data products
 - Computational resources for processing and analysis
 - A long-term archive for SKA science data products
- NRENs will be critical to support data movement to SRCs and users

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Lightpaths

Network performance to the U.S. & Latin America

- Latency was measured from Cape Town to the following sites:
 - Miami 272ms
 - Sao Paulo 381ms
 - Santiago 382ms via Pacific
 - Santiago 430ms via Atlantic
 - La Serena 392ms
- Academic networks transited were TENET, UbuntuNet, GEANT, Internet2, AmLight, REUNA, RNP and ANSP







Network performance to the U.S. & Latin America

From Cape Town to:	Currently via TENET, UbuntuNet, GEANT, and I2	Estimated via SACS	Possible Improvement
New York	241ms	192ms	49ms
Miami	272ms	161ms	111ms
Fortaleza, Brazil	336ms	97ms	239ms
Sao Paulo, Brazil	381ms	142ms	239ms
Santiago, Chile	382ms	143ms	239ms
La Serena, Chile	392ms	153ms	239ms



New submarine cables in the South Atlantic

- Monet: Boca Raton, FL-Fortaleza, BR.
 Operational
- South Atlantic Cable System (SACS): Fortaleza, BR- Sangano, Angola. Q3 2018
- South Atlantic Inter Link (SAIL): Fortaleza, BR -Kribi, Cameroon. Q3 2018 (TBD)
- EllaLink: Fortaleza, BR Sines, Portugal. RFS 2020
- America Movil (AMX-1): Fortaleza, BR -Jacksonville and Hollywood, FL. Operational
- SABR: Cape Town, SA Recife, BR. RFS 2019
- Fortaleza is a landing point for all cables, except for SABR





Network infrastructure resources in the Southern Hemisphere (potential leveraging)

- 225GHz linear spectrum of Monet committed in AmLight-ExP project
- 40GHz of spectrum on SACS is available to the R&E community
- TENET operates 220G of capacity on WACS
- South Atlantic eXchange point (SAX) is under development in Fortaleza, led by RNP
- R&E exchange point in Cape Town operated by SANREN and TENET
- R&E exchange point in Lagos, operated by WACREN



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Findings in Year 1

- Data volume will be increasing from science drivers in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA)
- Network infrastructure capacity is increasing in the Southern Hemisphere
- Linking the R&E communities in the US, Africa and Brazil is realizable via Monet and SACS submarine cable systems
- Reducing latency and improving infrastructure diversity is realizable
- Human resource development in several science, engineering and technology areas is lacking



Year 2 Goals



- Develop a plan for the activation of the offered spectrum on SACS
- Study locations for interconnections with partners' R&E networks in Africa
- Develop a network design with AARCLight collaborators
- Develop an assessment plan to measure the level of engagement by communities of interest with the potential new network infrastructure





Acknowledgment

- National Science Foundation (NSF) awards OAC-1638990, and OAC-1451025
- Dr. Heidi Morgan, Gabriella Alvarez, and Vasilka Chergarova for their contributions
- Academic Networks of Sao Paulo, RNP, SANREN/TENET, UbuntuNet and WACREN for their participation and support
- The many national and international collaborators who support our efforts



THANK YOU! julio@fiu.edu



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