

*4th Euro-Africa Cooperation Forum on ICT Research
Cape Town, 15 November 2011*

AfricaConnect

Duncan Martin

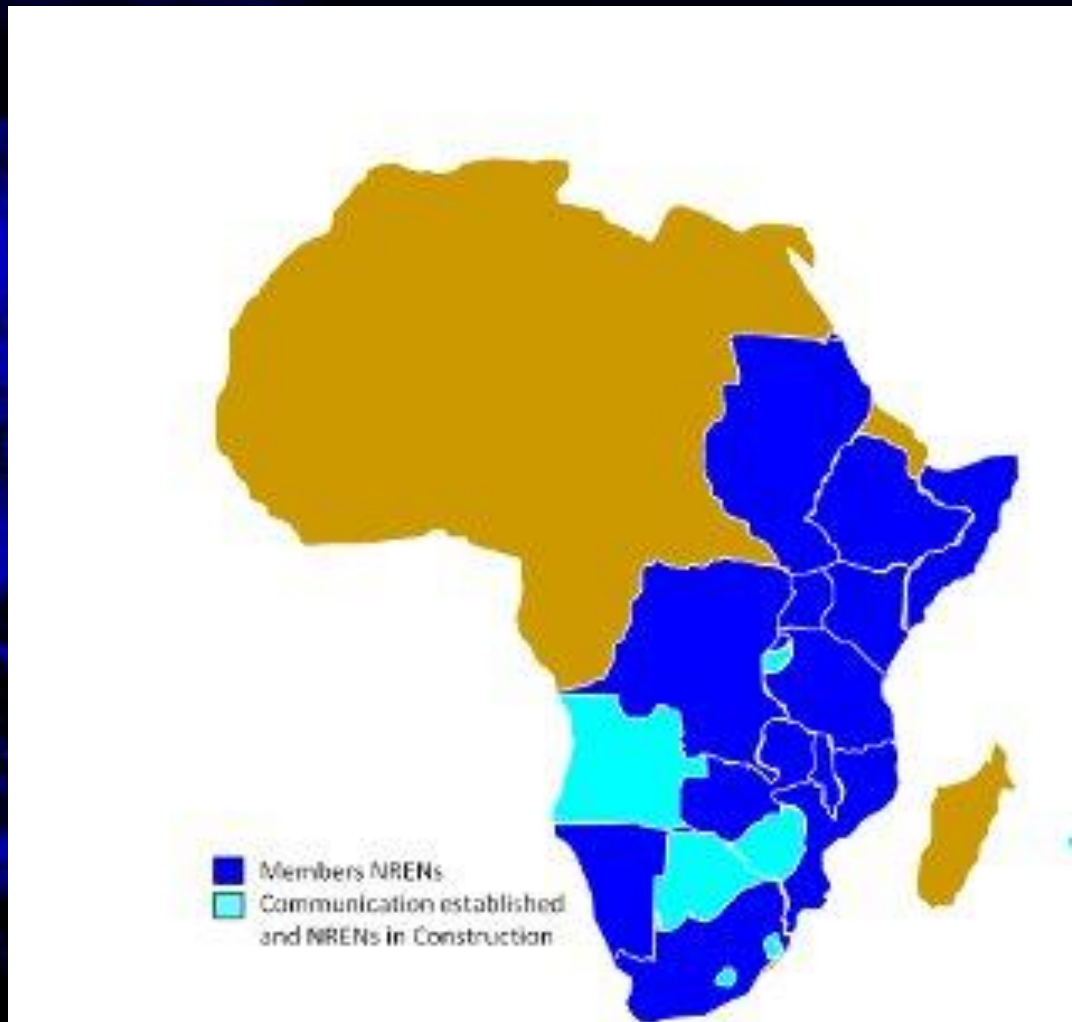
Non-Executive Director of UbuntuNet

Director and CEO of TENET

UbuntuNet Alliance for Research and Education Networking

- The regional REN for eastern and southern Africa
 - West African countries elected not to participate
 - Have since formed WACREN
- UbuntuNet's incorporation
 - Incorporated in 2006 in Amsterdam
 - Initially only 5 NRENs
 - Non-profit association of member NRENs
 - Now re-incorporating in Malawi (where Head Office is)

UbuntuNet Alliance Members



Eb@le, DRC
EthERNet, Ethiopia
*KENET, Kenya
*MAREN, Malawi
*MoRENet, Mozambique
XNet, Namibia
*RwEdNet, Rwanda
SomaliREN, Somalia
SudREN, Sudan
*TENET, South Africa
TERNET, Tanzania
RENU, Uganda
ZAMREN, Zambia

* = *founding member*

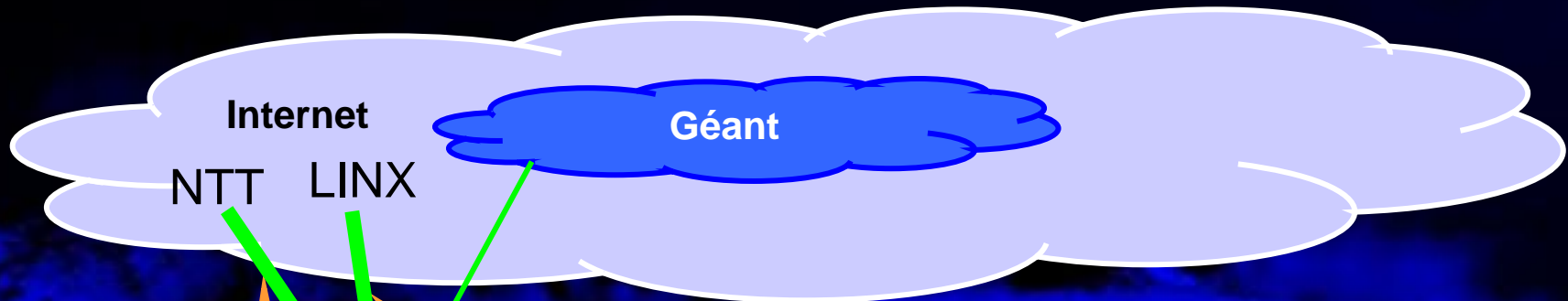
UbuntuNet People

- Office holders
 - Chair: Prof Zimane Kadzamira (Malawi)
 - Dep. Chair: Iman Abuel Maaly Abdelrahman (Sudan)
 - CEO: Dr F F (Tusu) Tusubira (Uganda)
- Management Board of 9 directors
 - Elected for 2-year terms by member NRENs

Prof Bjorn Pehrson, KTH
(Patron Saint)



UbuntuNet's London Hub



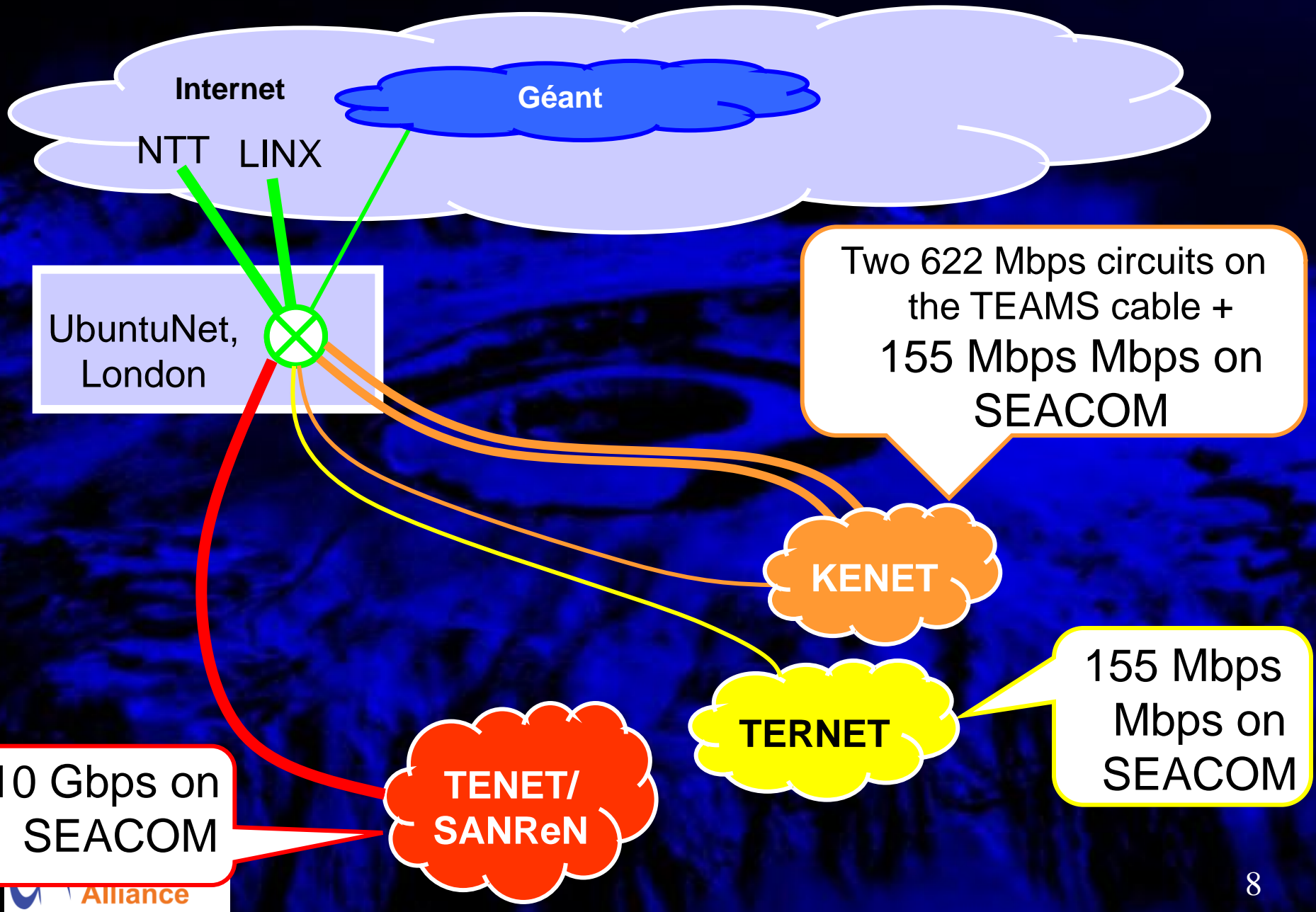
UbuntuNet,
London

1 Gbps interconnect
with Géant

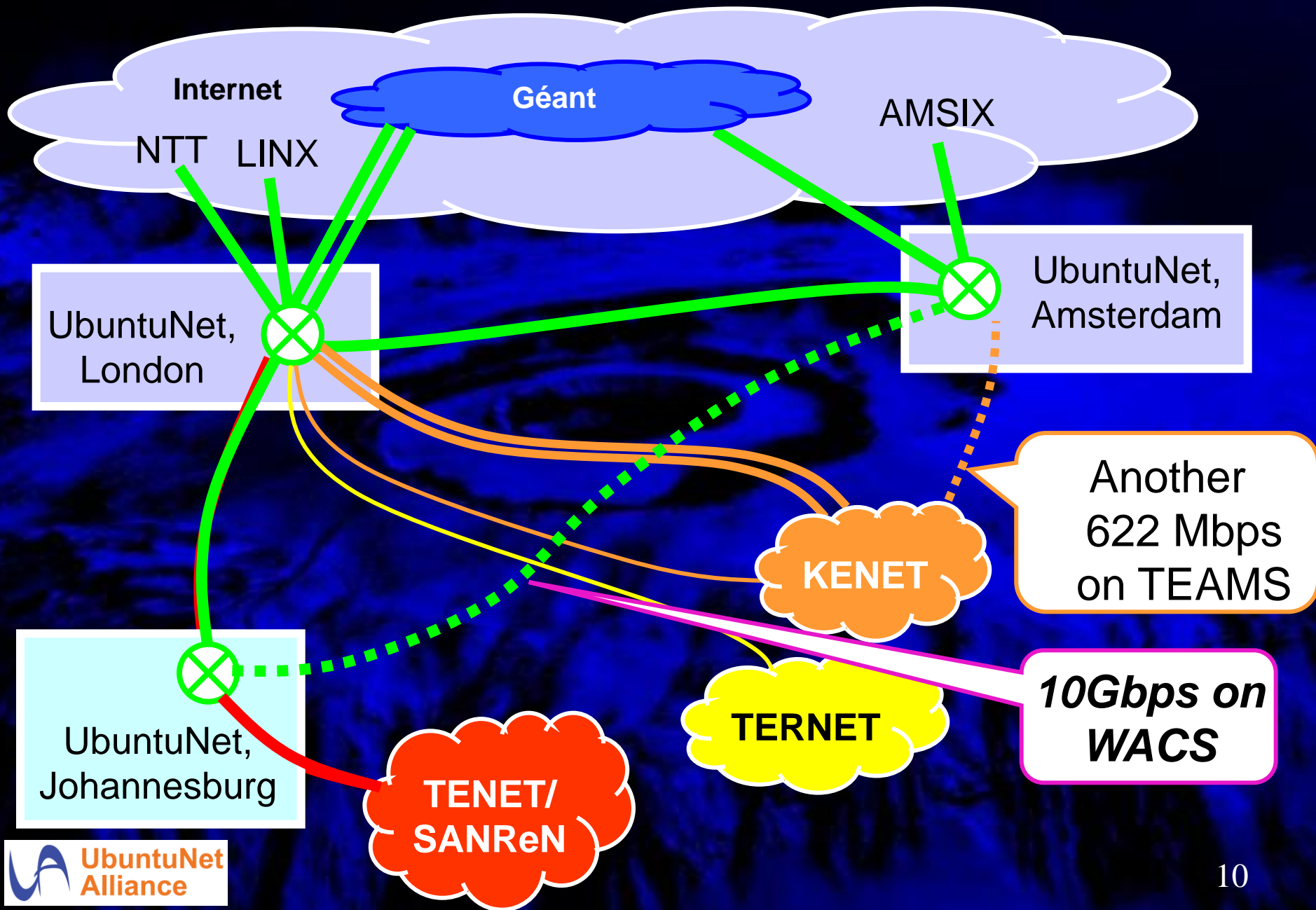
Since 2008, hosted in DANTE's
cage in Telecity, London.
Router donated by CISCO.
Subsequently upgraded and 2nd
router added.

on Internet Exchange
g interconnections

Current NREN connections



UbuntuNet Extensions



Accolade for Géant

The World's only Tier 1 REN!

Thank you EC!

The AfricaConnect Project

(www.africaconnect.eu)



www.africaconnect.eu

Precursors

- 2005-11: WSIS in Tunis
 - Research and education networking in Africa firmly on the agenda
 - Strong support for UbuntuNet initiative from EC, AUC, NEPAD, IDRC
- 2009: FEAST study
 - commissioned by EC
 - Led by Prof Bjorn Pehrson, KTH
 - Recommended that UbuntuNet region was ready for a REN intervention

Identity and Purpose

AfricaConnect is a project of the European Commission and the African Union Commission.

AfricaConnect aims to establish a high-capacity Internet network for research and education in Southern and Eastern Africa so as to provide the region with a gateway to global research collaboration.

Project will focus on securing cross-border links between NRENs.

Managing Partner



<http://www.dante.net>

Project Manager:
Cathrin Stover

13 African NREN Partners



DRC



Kenya



Malawi



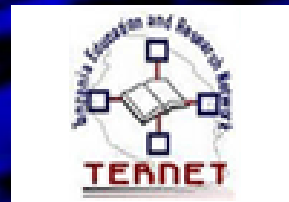
Somalia



Sudan



South Africa



Tanzania



Uganda



Zambia

EthERNet
(Ethiopia)

MoreNet
(Mozambique)

RwEdNet
(Rwanda)

XNet
(Namibia)

3 African Regional Partners



Eastern and
Southern Africa



Association of
African Universities



Western and
Central Africa

6 European NREN Partners



Germany



Italy



Spain



Ireland



UK



Netherlands

UbuntuNet is the African Implementation Partner

- Involve and coordinate and the NRENs
- Design the network
- Operate the network
- At end of project, take ownership of assets

Overview

- 4 year project
- Budget of 14.8 M Euro
 - 80% EUC, 20% from beneficiaries
- Targeting UbuntuNet Alliance countries
 - NRENs that are ready will get priority
 - extends to WACREN for capacity building activities
 - South Africa not a beneficiary

Phase A: Planning and Procurement

- Design cost-effective technical solution for the network based on offers received
- Confirm service requirements and contributions from NRENs
- Award contracts to suppliers
 - Connectivity
 - equipment
- Develop cost-sharing model
- Develop sustainability plan

Phase B: Operations

- Network Operations
 - Implement and test network prior to operational service
 - set up network management and ops centre
- User support and capacity building
 - Support to collaborative user communities
 - Development within NRENs
 - UbuntuNet technical staff
- Promote use of network and applications to
 - to end-users
 - international stakeholders

Needs and challenges

- Political will and financial resources for
 - successful, sustainable NRENs and Regional REN
 - NRENs to operate as independent service providers
 - capacity on national backbones
 - extension to more countries
- Enabling regulatory environments
 - NRENs able to own or get access to broadband infrastructure at globally competitive prices
 - Removing the cross-border barriers: African NRENs are exchanging traffic outside Africa!

Progress so far

- Contract between DG AidCO and DANTE
 - signed during IST-Africa 2011 (11 – 13 May, Gaborone)
- Budget and detailed work plans agreed
 - DANTE and UbuntuNet Alliance
- Procurement Notice and Tendering
 - Notice in 8 Sept 2011 issue of Official Journal of the EU
 - Tenders invited: deadline was last week
 - Responses being evaluated right now
- AfricaConnect Admin and Technical meetings
 - Next week in Nairobi
 - Followed by UbuntuNet Connect Conference

Appreciation

- African Union Commission
- European Union Commission
- International Development Research Center
- Andrew W Mellon Foundation (FRENIA)
- Partnership for Higher Education in Africa
- Open Society Institute of Southern Africa

And so...?

**“The future is so bright that we’ll
all have to wear dark glasses!”**

–Julius Malema

–Thanks for listening!

