Written by James Barton
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The not-for-profit African eDevelopment Resource Center (AeRC), in collaboration with 3 Triple Play Fibre Optic Solutions, is holding a four-day Fibre Optic Training course from September 1-4 2009 in Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania. The course will provide participants with the skills and knowledge necessary to design, install, troubleshoot and test fibre optic systems.

The course will be held at the Learn IT Centre in Dar-es-Salaam. Upon completing the course, students will receive the Certified Fibre Optics Technician (CFOT) accreditation, including a CFOT passport, and will be qualified to sit the Fibre Optic Association Inc. (FOA) exam.

The FOA maintains a worldwide database of fibre optic installers, contractors and consultants as a resource for those searching for a designer or installer for fibre optic projects or trained employees. The database is searchable by location and fibre optic speciality. The FOA is the most recognized certification in fibre optics in the world.

Several of the program's instructors are academics from the University of KwaZulu-Natal with extensive experience in the field of fibre optics. The training itself is not limited to installers and technicians, but rather provides an excellent credential for sales or marketing personnel by demonstrating comprehensive knowledge of the industry.

The registration fee for the workshop is US$ 1630 = Ksh 127,000 + 16 % VAT which will cover all the documentation, administration and meals during the workshop. Due to the nature of the course we have a limited number of spaces available and will be allocated on a first-come-first-served basis.

Following a successful training course in June this year, the AeRC will operate another 3-day intensive VSAT training course from August 19-21 2009. The course will take place at Development House in Nairobi, Kenya, and will offer instruction in both theoretical and practical skills applicable to DVB/TDMA VSAT field engineers, support engineers and operational managers.

The course is designed for:

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People who need to gain knowledge of the satellite industry; the decision makers and buyers.

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People who want to know more about satellites and understand the basics of satellite communication.

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Engineers and installers in need of practical experience of installing and commissioning VSAT equipment.

Once again, the course will be led by Mr Piet Retief, a specialist in the maintenance and installation of high speed long- and short-haul telecommunication equipment. It will cover the following areas:

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Why we use Satellites: reasons why satellite is used as opposed to fibre, cable or microwave.

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How do Satellites work? Detailed explanations of the design and operation of satellites.

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VSAT Network Design: components that make up a VSAT network.

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Link Budget: explanation of what link budgets are and why we need them.

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VSAT Services: a discussion of the different types of services and their respective benefits.

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Practical Theory: the creation of a VSAT site, from applying to commissioning.

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Demonstration: building and aligning a satellite dish.

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Student practical.

The registration fee for the course US$ 715 or Ksh 55,770 + 16% VAT. This includes the Course handbook and CD, administrative costs, certificate issued on successful completion and meals and refreshments during the course. Due to the practical nature of the course, we have limited spaces available and they will be offered on a first-come-first-served basis.

To participate in either course, please visit www.africanedevelopment.org in order to register.