

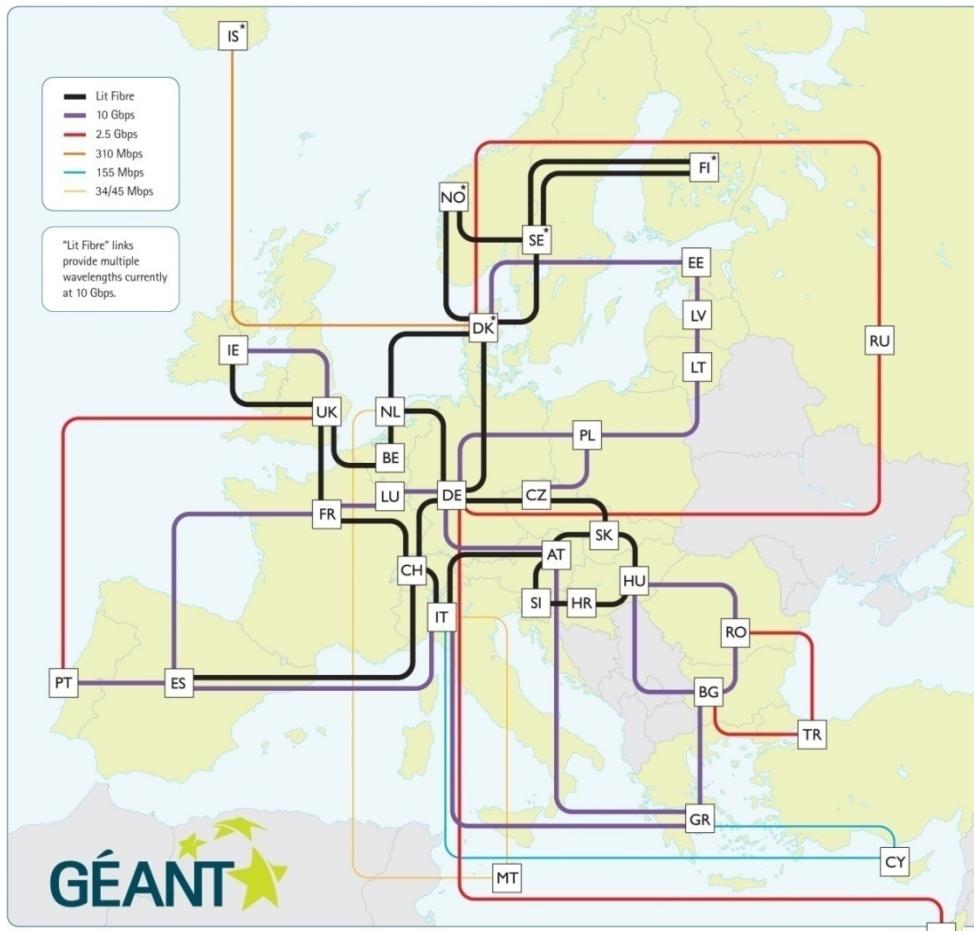
An overview of the AfricaConnect project

IST Africa Conference

Thursday, 20 May 2010

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DANTE

A refresher – what is GÉANT?



Backbone Topology April 2009. GÉANT is operated by DANTE on behalf of Europe's NRENs.

* The Nordic countries are operated through NORDUnet

7th generation of pan-European research network infrastructure – continuation of a success story

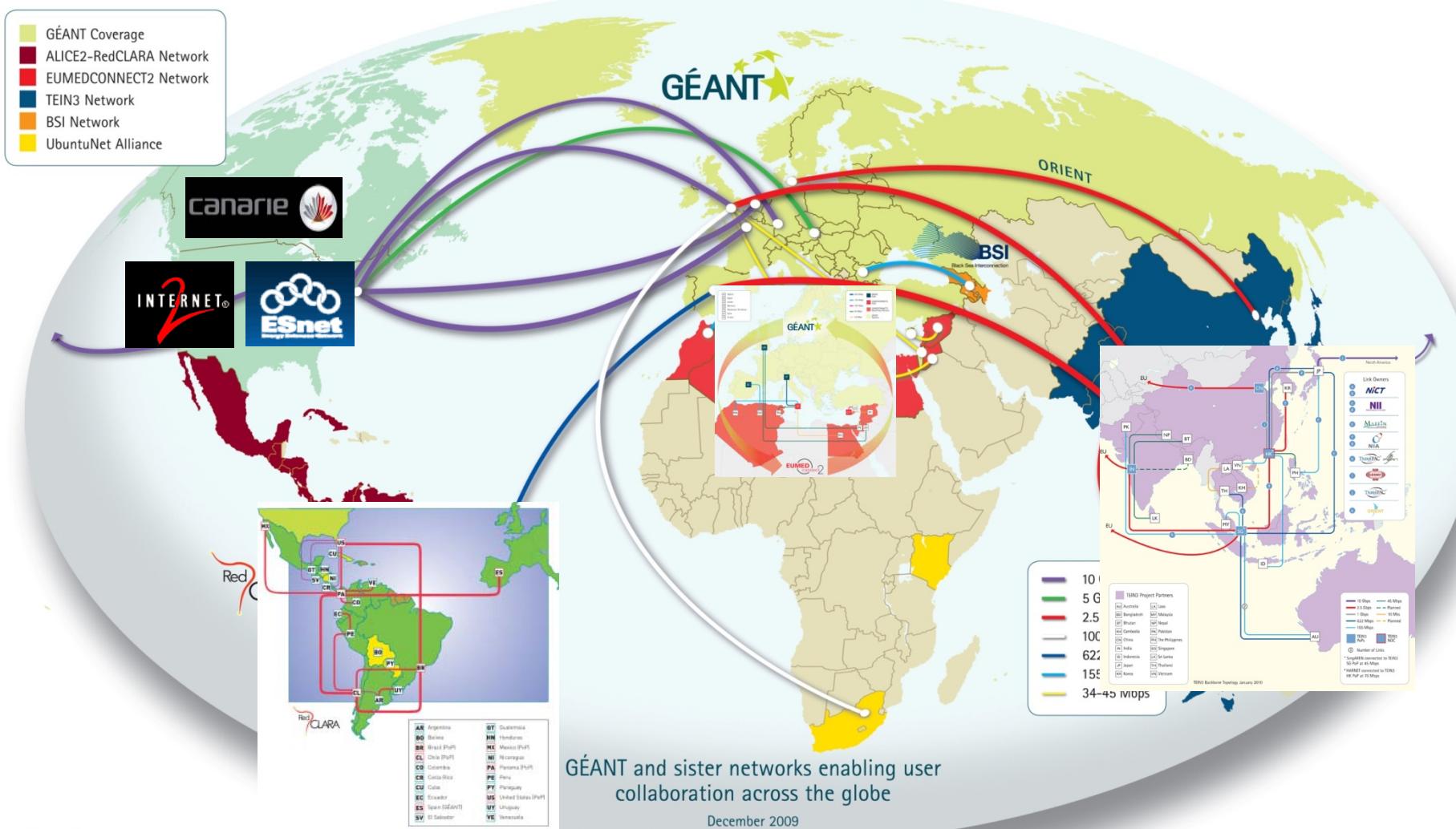
Connects 36 European countries through 32 NREN partners

Serves over 3,500 research and education establishments across Europe

Over 30 million users

GÉANT topology – April 2009

GÉANT At the Heart of Global Research Networking



connect • communicate • collaborate

GÉANT is co-funded by the European Commission within its 7th R&D Framework Programme.

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- Ubuntunet Alliiance and DANTE have finalised the concrete AfricaConnect project proposal, logframe and initial budget of the activity
- DG AidCO and DANTE are negotiating the AfricaConnect contract. Derogations are needed for:
 - Rule of origin
 - Procurement process to be used
- Strong commitment to finalise the negotiations as soon as possible
- AfricaConnect is on track

What is planned?



- AfricaConnect is a 4 year project divided in Planning/Procurement Phase and Operational Phase
 - Planning and Procurement (up to 12 months)
 - Operational Phase (months 13-48)
- Total Budget of 14.8 M Euro (divided in 80:20) for AfricaConnect

- Looking at broad African and European partner base
 - All UA members to participate in AfricaConnect Phase A
 - WACREN participation in AfricaConnect Capacity Building and Meetings funded through the project and also through additional funding from Carnegie

Work packages



- WP0: Project Management and Sustainability
- WP1: Connectivity and Equipment Procurement
- WP2: Network Design
- WP3: Provider and Supplier agreements
- WP4: Implementations
- WP5: Operations
- WP6: NREN Subscriber Management
- WP7: Training and Technical Support
- WP8: Reporting
- WP9: Dissemination

Planning and Procurement phase:

- Procurement of the network connectivity from telecom providers;
- Procurement of the network equipment from equipment suppliers
- Design of a cost-effective technical solution for the network based on market availability;
- Development of a sustainability plan for the regional network and its connected NRENs
- Dissemination Activities across Africa and Europe

Phase B of AfricaConnect



Operational Phase:

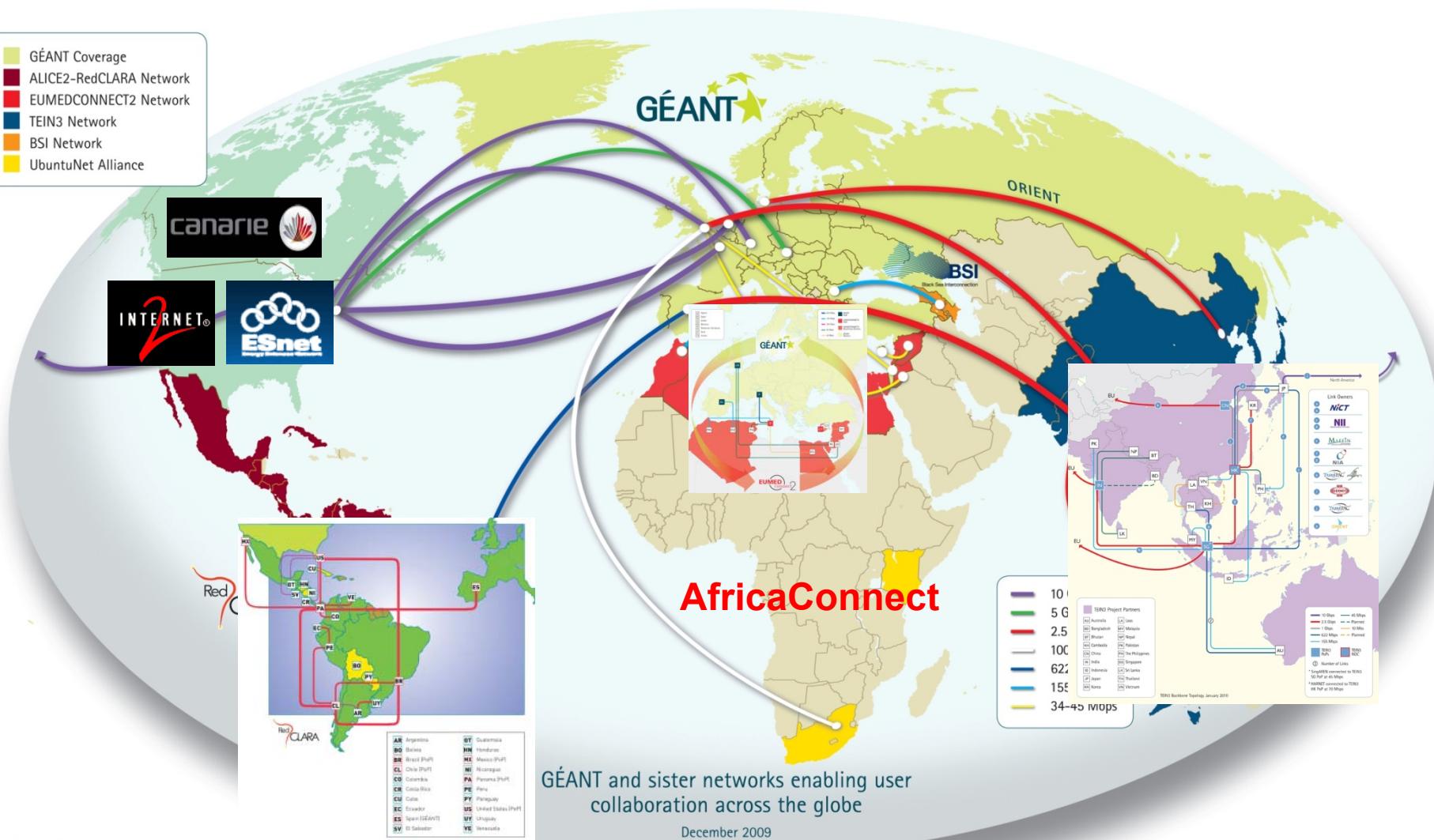
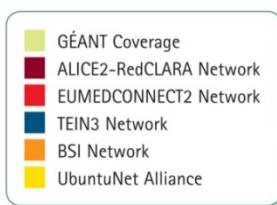
- Network management and operations to provide stable connectivity services;
- Support to collaborative user communities utilizing the infrastructure within the region and towards Europe
- Promotion of the use of the network to the end-users (students, researchers, doctors) and promotion of the network to the international stakeholder community
- Support the uptake of the use of ICT applications by the research and education community.
- Training and support activities including capacity building for the consolidation of the NRENs and training local staff in the effective engineering, management and operation of the network.
- Increasing political dialogue to raise the political and financial support to the connectivity issues.
- Dissemination

Experiences in Other World Regions



- To make AfricaConnect successful, we need to closely look at the experiences gathered in other world regions
- CLARA has already talked this morning of their experiences in ALICE and ALICE2
- TEIN3 has undergone significant processes when connecting the South Asian countries
- Synergy between EC regional funding (TEIN3) and World Bank national funding to NRENs
 - World Bank NREN Blog at:
<https://blogs.worldbank.org/endpovertyinsouthasia/revolution-connectivity-education-coming-your-way>
 - World Bank TEIN3 testimony at:
<http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/COUNTRIES/SOUTHASIAEXT/0,,contentMDK:22574301~pagePK:146736~piPK:146830~theSitePK:223547,00.html>

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- More information
 - www.geant.net
 - www.tein3.net
 - www.eumedconnect2.net
 - [www.caren.dante.net](http://caren.dante.net)
- Media centres:
 - <http://www.tein3.net/server/show/nav.2212>
 - <http://www.eumedconnect2.net/server/show/nav.2181>
 - <http://caren.dante.net/server/show/nav.2390>
- Order Form for printed material
 - <http://www.dante.net/server/show/nav.126>