Purpose of being here

1. The Rally to READ
   - A response to key challenges in rural education
   - The programme

2. How satellite-based technology could assist

3. Space for Education
   - In partnership
   - A pilot programme
   - Value

The department's Annual National Assessments released in June 2011 showed grade 6 pupils achieved an average of 28% in languages and 30% in mathematics. Pupils in poorer provinces, such as Mpumalanga and Limpopo, had the worst results.

— July 2011

Rural primary schools, key challenges

1. Schools are over-crowded and in poor condition.

2. Schools are very remote – difficult to access.
    - **out of the mainstream** - tend to be isolated and neglected.
    - removed from Education Department management.
    - **out of touch with other schools.**

3. Schools are poor and **under-resourced.**

Rural primary schools, key challenges

4. **Teachers are generally under-qualified**
   - Remoteness, poor housing & working conditions discourage qualified teachers & minimise length of service.

5. **Schools lack leadership.**

6. Parental support is enthusiastic rather than informed.

Rally to Read: overview

- **Literacy development programme in rural schools in SA**
  - Provision of educational resources and teacher training/support
  - Organisers: McCarthy Motor Group, Financial Mail, READ Educational Trust in collaboration with the provincial Education Department
  - 100 individual / private enterprise sponsors
- **Conducted annually**
  - In 10 rural areas of South Africa
  - In 150 primary schools
  - 4 years of support (3 consecutive and 1 later to "maintain the momentum")
  - 150 participants on each Rally weekend

Rally to Read: overview

- **Commenced in 1998**
  - 2012 = 15th year of Rally to Read
  - 86 Rallies so far – in 34 different rural areas of SA
  - 700 schools impacted
  - R50 million invested in books and teacher training
  - 15 000 volunteers / sponsor representatives visited these schools

Rally to Read: overview

1. **Held annually in May**
   - 10 off-road / 4 x 4 Rallies to all corners of SA
   - 25 "vehicle sponsors" on each Rally
   - R25 000 each (2/3 for books ; 1/3 for teacher training programme)

2. **Weekend Rallies**
   - 25 vehicles, driven by sponsors, deliver books to 12 schools
   - 150 people visit the schools on each Rally

Rally to Read: overview

3. **Teacher training programme follows**
   - 3 formal training course per year
   - In-classroom support and guidance for teachers after the training

4. **Three consecutive Rallies, to the same set of schools**
   - 3 separate deliveries plus
   - 3 years of training

Rally to Read areas 1998 - 2011

How a satellite based service platform could support the Rally to Read

1. **Video conference sessions**
   - Follow-up / reinforcement of formal training
   - Between teachers & trainer
   - Mentorship of individual teachers (sponsors?)

2. **Structured teacher training courses**
   - On-line & off-line sessions

3. **Distribution of educational materials**
   - Ready-made material and "edu-tainment" content
   - ESA teaching material...

How a satellite based service platform could support the Rally to Read

4. **Intra-school collaboration 'communities'**

   - Lesson sharing between colleagues within the "community";

   - inter-school competitions...

5. **Tele-technical maintenance assistance**

   - Trouble shooting technical problems via video clips

6. **A light cyber café, outside of school day**

   - Chat, e-mails and Skype plus links

   - between learners from local schools;

   - projection of movies...

Example of installations of ISIDE4Africa project

Antennas in Burundi

Projector and PC console in Burundi

Classroom in Burundi

Antenna in Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso), to prevent theft and damages caused by transit of big animals

A few uses as per SIDE4Africa

Vocational Training, including Internet Browsing

(Kinshasa - DRC)

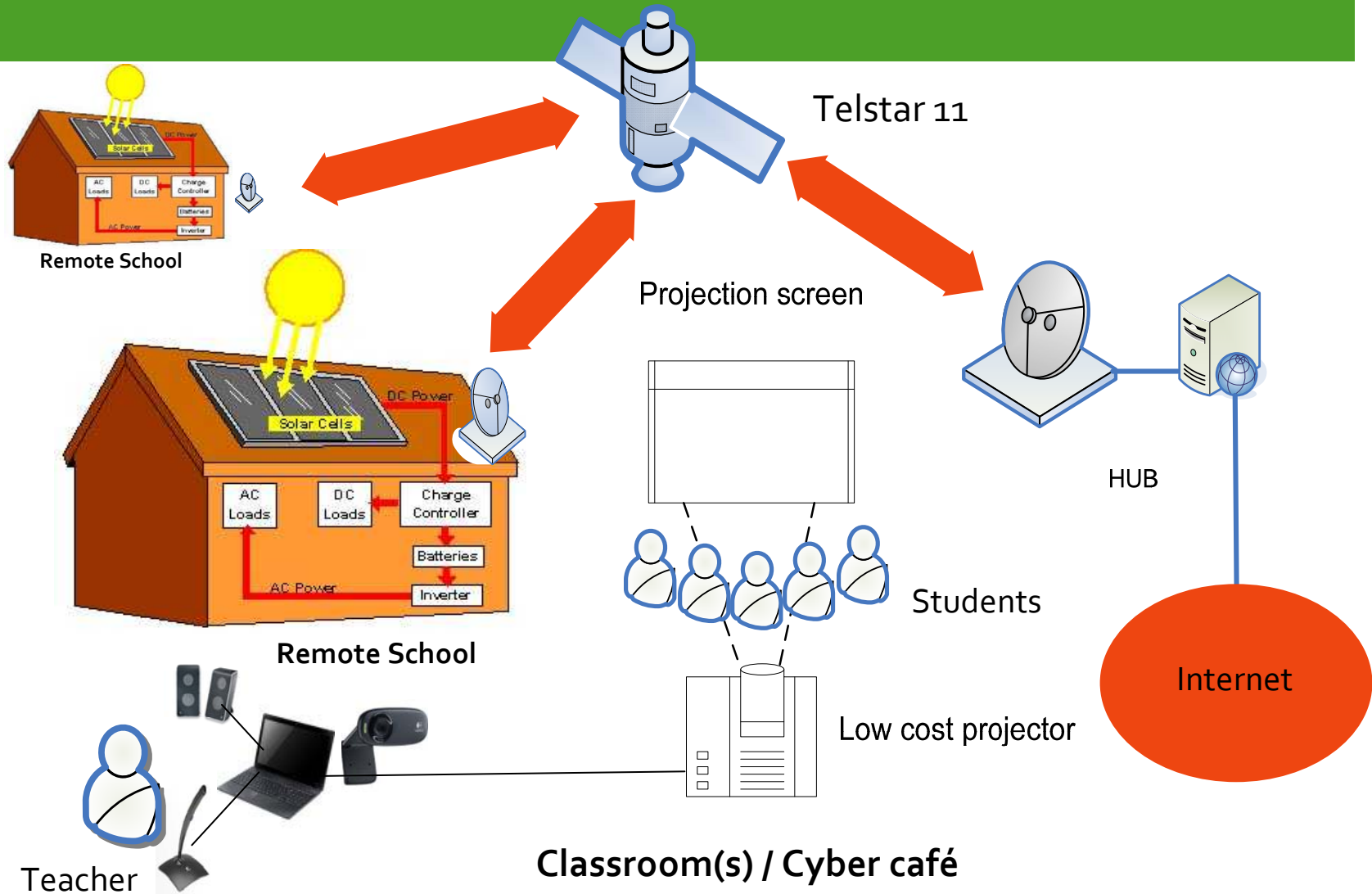**Lesson about local History (Burundi)**

Entertainment for pupils (Kinshasa - DRC)

'Space for Education' introduced

- A new partnership with Rally to Read
- A pilot project within 12 Rally schools
- Part of the "SatElections" project
  - within the ESA ARTES 3-4 Applications programme
  - alongside their other interactive training programmes in the DRC
    in support of:
    - Electoral education / democracy;
    - Climate change awareness / food security
- 18-month programme, commencing end 2011

Possible network architecture

Telstar 11

Remote School

Projection screen

Remote School

Students

HUB

Internet

Low cost projector

Teacher

Classroom(s) / Cyber café

Our 8-point plan

1. A pilot Rally area selected – 12 schools in KwaZulu-Natal

2. Set up satellite-based teacher training support system:
   - Purchase, install solar power, computer, printer and projector at each school
   - Set up satellite link
   - Set up the mechanism for on-line registration and assessments

3. Arrange local technical support (local IT company)

4. Train READ trainers, Educational Dept managers, principals & teachers on the system (computer literacy/ address security / access. etc)

Our 8-point plan

5. Hold annual Rally to Read in May – deliver educational materials and commence training

6. READ trainers reinforce training & keep contact via
   – Video conferencing
   – e-mail communication
   – Assignments
   – Additional training materials

7. Schools and teachers – share, download, communicate…

8. Post-programme assessment / report to partners

And a wonderful possibility…

1. On-line training modules filmed / downloaded

2. Teachers register, watch modules and complete assessments
    -   Automatically scored / monitored by READ or Ed Dept Managers
    -   Practical assessments completed by READ trainer / Ed Dept
    -   Teachers accumulate credits & are certified at various NQF (National Qualification Framework) levels

And a wonderful possibility...

Any new arrival teachers 'sign up" to complete the programme

Existing teachers complete refresher courses

New and updated material made available for download

For schools across Africa!

In summary... the added value

1. Contact with and between schools massively increased

2. Existing training provided to teachers effectively reinforced

3. Teachers enabled to use computers

4. Access to information and ideas greatly increased

5. Sustainability of the Rally to Read programme at each school hugely enhanced

With thanks to the project partners

Within the framework of the SatElections project

1. **Openet (I)**, prime contractor, in charge of producing the digital & interactive eTraining / eLearning courses

2. **Sea&Space / SatADSL (B)** - provide access & monitoring features to the satellite Astra2Connect platform

3. **SES (L) and Newtec (B)** - provide satellite capacity & multicast services

4. **Rally to Read organisers**

Thank you