

AISI-Connect National ICT Profile ERITREA (ER)

GENERAL DATA	ICT-INFRASTRUCTURE	ICT POLICIES
Capital: Asmara	Fixed lines (K) '98: 24	Competition in local loop: Monopoly
98 Population (M): 3.58	97-98 % Fixed Line Growth: 0.12	Competition in telephone terminals: Yes
Currency: ERN	98 Mobile Lines (K): 0	Independent regulator: No
Exch rate (/US\$): 7.78	Mobile Line Growth (%):	Private Wireless Data allowed: No
Currency Stability:	Cities with Internet POPs: 5	Independent Internet VSAT Allowed: No
97 GDP US\$/person: 161.0	Local Call National Internet: No	VSAT License Fees:
97 Total GDP (\$B):	Dialup Internet subscribers: 1200	Satellite Phone access: No
Local Stock Exchange: No	International Bandwidth (Kbps): 256	Universal Service Obligations:
Personal Safety: 4	Internet Hosts: 3	IAP License Fees (\$/yr):
Political Stability:	Internet domains:	Private Phone Kiosks: No
Tertiary ICT Students:	Dialup Internet Cost 20hrs/mnth (\$): 70	Public VOIP Allowed: No
ICT Training seats:	64K Local Internet link (\$/mnt):	Business Ownership Rules:
ISDN: No	64K Internat Internet Link (\$/mnt):	Repatriation of Profits Rules:
VPN Services: No	Local phone call cost (US\$/hr: 0.6	Restrictions on market entry:
UNDP Human Devel Index:	Monthly tel line rental (\$/mnt):	Export Credit Guarantees:
.	Telephone waiting time/Wait List:	.
.	Internet Access Providers 4	.
.	Mobile Operators:	.
.	Fixed Line Telecom Operators:	.

[Key to table values](#) All figures above in US Dollars (\$)

ICT Profile:

Internet:

In March 2000 Eritrea became the last country in Africa to get local access to the Internet. The Eritrean PTO has established an international gateway working with USAID's Leland project. <http://www.leland-er.org/>

4 ISPs have been licensed - Tfanus Enterprises, CTS, Ewan News and TSE Net. POPs have been established in five towns - Asmara, Massawa, Keren, Mendefera and Dekamhare, with Barentu and

Assab scheduled to be on-line in the next few months

Before this, email access to the Internet was provided through store and forward email systems connecting to the US. There are two larger services operated by private companies - **Tfanus Enterprises** and **EWAN Technical Solutions**, and some smaller ones: EISA, ETE and HealthNet.

Telecommunications:

The telecommunications sector is regulated by the **Department of Communications**. Eritrea has a rapidly modernizing telecoms network which is being built up from a low base following the years of war.

In March '98, the Eritrean government issued the 'Communications Proclamation' which sets the regulatory framework for commercial communications services (Internet included). This proclamation defined three types of communications activities:

- exclusive rights activity: an activity for which a permit may be issued only to one person (or corporation)
- limited competition activity: an activity for which permits may be issued to a limited number of persons
- open competition activity: an activity for which permits shall be issued to an unlimited number of persons

The proclamation further stated that Open Competition activities encompass value added services, i.e. services other than basic services and data transmission services as defined by the Communications Department.

Networking Centres:

The **Eritrean Information Systems Agency** (EISA) is the government body responsible for IT and networks in the civil service and is the RINAF project focal point for UNESCO.

The **University of Asmara** and 11 Government ministries receive service from a store and forward server located at the **Energy Research and Training Centre** (ERTC) at the **Department of Energy** which is supported through a US NGO, the **Eritrean Technical Exchange** (ETE).

The **Eritrean Standards Institute** and **Healthnet** have email connections.

The UNDP is assisting with the development of an **SDNP Eritrea** project.

Communication Costs:

Ewan: Setup - \$55. Subscription - \$28/month for an account with a one megabyte volume limit.
Tfanus: \$25/month.

Organisational Activities in the ICT Sector:

[Ministry of Finance and Development](#)

[Ministry of Transport and Communications](#) Developing the regulatory framework for restructuring the telecommunication sector Mrs Mehari Fessahatzion, Prog&Plan Unit

Eritrean Information Systems Agency This is the government body responsible for IT and networks in the civil service and is the RINAF focal point.

While EISA has had an Internet strategy for some time and has been developing an in-depth web site in preparation for when this becomes available, the staff of the agency is very small and has been occupied with many other responsibilities including defining standards for ICT equipment and establishing LANs for government departments. EISA have completed a master-plan to improve the application of ICTs in Eritrea which includes plans to build a Wide Area Network linking the LANs of various government institutions.

EISA has been a partner in the UNECA/PADIS CABECA project which helped establish a local email node connecting daily to the Internet gateway at GreenNet in London, with support for the cost of the international phone calls from PADIS.

Unfortunately EISA has lost the staff that had already received training in email use and installation, and as a result they have not been actively promoting the use of their service. Two new staff members have been designated to take over - Haile Teclé Giorgis, Elsa Tesfamariam and have received some initial on-site training as part of the GHAI project supported by USAID. The project also supplied modems to 15 different government ministries.

Eritrea is designated under the RINAF Extension project but to date EISA have not formulated a concrete proposal. However, in line with President Issaias Afewerki's policy of reducing dependence, Eritrea accepts virtually no foreign assistance. Over the last four years, it has asked all but six aid agencies to leave (including Oxfam and every religious organization). Mr Tewolde Gebreab Tewoldeg@eisa.gn.apc.org

Eritrean Technical Exchange A US NGO which supports the **Energy Research and Training Centre** (ERTC) which provides a store and forward server at the **Department of Energy** for 15 departments of the University of Asmara and 11 Government Ministries. It calls Asmara 3 times a day to deliver and collect messages. ete@punchdown.org

EWAN Technical Solutions A store and forward email service. ewan@eol.com.er

SDNP Eritrea The UNDP is assisting with the development of an SDNP project. Mr. Yoseph Admekon Yoseph.Admekon@undp.org

Tfanus Enterprises A store and forward email service. tfanus@gemel.com.er

Asmara University Operates a store and forward Internet service. The Computer Centre and Physics Department are the centres for networking skills in the academic system. The university has two other campuses - the Department of Agriculture and Acoustic Sciences which is 50kms from the city and the University Research Institute which is 2kms from the campus.

About 15 departments of the University and 11 Government ministries receive service from a store and forward server located at the **Energy Research and Training Centre** (ERTC) at the **Department of Energy** which is supported through a US NGO, the **Eritrean Technical Exchange** (ETE). ETE calls Asmara 3 times a day to deliver and collect messages.

Healthnet Eritrea A node supported by Satelife has been operational since '94. support@eri.healthnet.org

Eritrean Standards Institute Has an email connection.

Source:

AISI-Connect database - <http://www2.sn.apc.org/africa> Telecom/GDP stats source: ITU/World Bank. Internet hosts:
Network Wizards

If located in Africa and not listed here, [add your organisation to this page.](#)