

AISI-Connect National ICT Profile MAURITANIA (MR)

GENERAL DATA	ICT-INFRASTRUCTURE	ICT POLICIES
Capital: Nouakchott	Fixed lines (K) '98: 15	Competition in local loop: Monopoly
98 Population (M): 2.53	97-98 % Fixed Line Growth: 0.12	Competition in telephone terminals: Yes
Currency: MRO	98 Mobile Lines (K): 4	Independent regulator: No
Exch rate (/US\$): 207.557	Mobile Line Growth (%):	Private Wireless Data allowed: No
Currency Stability:	Cities with Internet POPs: 2	Independent Internet VSAT Allowed: No
97 GDP US\$/person: 455.0	Local Call National Internet: Yes	VSAT License Fees:
97 Total GDP (\$B):	Dialup Internet subscribers: 550	Satellite Phone access: No
Local Stock Exchange: No	International Bandwidth (Kbps): 128	Universal Service Obligations:
Personal Safety: 2	Internet Hosts: 1	IAP License Fees (\$/yr):
Political Stability:	Internet domains:	Private Phone Kiosks: No
Tertiary ICT Students:	Dialup Internet Cost 20hrs/mnth (\$):	Public VOIP Allowed: No
ICT Training seats:	64K Local Internet link (\$/mnth):	Business Ownership Rules:
ISDN: No	64K Internat Internet Link (\$/mnth):	Repatriation of Profits Rules:
VPN Services: No	Local phone call cost (US\$/hr): 6.6	Restrictions on market entry:
UNDP Human Devel Index:	Monthly tel line rental (\$/mnth):	Export Credit Guarantees:
.	Telephone waiting time/Wait List:	.
.	Internet Access Providers 5	.
.	Mobile Operators:	.
.	Fixed Line Telecom Operators:	.

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

ICT Profile:

Internet:

The PTO, OPT, was requested by government to establish an Internet service as part of its efforts to open the country's economy, improve its international presence and to increase international trade.

While OPT focuses on supplying services to the public sector and international organisations, 5 companies resell to the private sector, with the University of Nouakchott taking responsibility for the academic/research sector. The companies selected by OPT are Top Technology, BITS, Informa Bull, CompuNet and SIG. **Top Technology** is the only ISP that is currently operational.

The OPT is the primary partner in the UNDP's recently approved IIA/SDNP project

Telecommunications:

The **Ministère de l'Intérieur, des Postes et Télécommunications** is responsible for the sector. There is no independent regulator - these functions are assumed by the **Office des postes et des télécommunications** (OPT) which is sole provider of basic telecommunications services as well as x.25 and Internet services.

Mauritania has a very under-developed telephone network of about 13 000 phone lines. Automatic dialling is only available in Nouakchott and Nouadhibou but has been expanded to 11 locations under contract with the telecom group Harris through a DOMSAT arrangement with Arabsat under a financial assistance programme with the Fonds arabe de développement économique et social (FADES). International satellite circuits are with France, US and Spain and terrestrial links to Senegal and Morocco.

There is no cellular telephone service in the country.

Communication Costs:

OPT. Dialup - US\$30 /month. 28.8Kbps leased line - US\$950 /month. 64Kbps \$2800 / mnth.
Top Technology: Cybercafe - 450 ouguiya /hour. 10 hrs dialup - 4500 ougiya/month, 200 ougiya / additional hour. Unlimited account - 15 000 ougiya /month

Local calls to the Internet cost 16 Ouguiya / minute before tax - US\$6.6/hour.

National ICT activities:

The **Faculte des Sciences et Technologie** (FST) of the **University of Nouakchott** is the leading networking institution in the country.

The University also operates a **Centre Informatique** on campus.

Some early networking activities took place several years ago between Mauritania and Algeria, under the Regional Informatics Network for the Arab States (RINAS) project. The RINAF project built on this relationship, as CERIST is the sub-regional RINAF co-ordinator for North Africa and is preparing to assist in organizing a Mauritanian training workshop and the supply of equipment which will be used to provide Internet access for students (1 PC UNIX server, 1 router, 1 leased line modem, 8 dialup modems).

A number of Mauritians have been trained in France, at Inet96 in Montreal, Inet97 in Kuala Lumpur, and at the sub-regional RINAF training course organised by CERIST in Algeria. Support for attendance at the Inet workshops was provided by UNDP and the World Bank.

The World Bank has provided funding for 2 servers and the fittings for a special purpose-built building on campus which houses the Internet equipment of FST.

In Feb '98 the government finalised a US\$850 000 IIA/SDNP project for Mauritania of which 50% will be funded by UNDP.

The **Centre national de recherches océanographiques** (CNROP) de Nouadhibou has an electronic catalogue at its documentation centre.

The **Société nationale pour le développement rural** (SONADER) uses a database for its library.

The **Centre d'information pour le développement économique et technique** (CIMDET) has produced an extensive guide to using email and the Internet with support from coopération française.

The OPT hosts the Afrinet web server under the ACCT assistance programme. It is expected to become the official national web server for the country.

The **Direction des Archives nationales** is responsible directly to the **Secrétariat général de la Présidence**. A special documentation and research centre charged with conservation of cultural heritage was established - the **Direction Central du Ministère de la Culture et de l'Orientation islamique**. The centre is being assisted by UNDP, BIEF and UNESCO to re-inforce the national library. It operates a public speaking programme.

The national library system is structured into an integrated network comprising the national library, the public and student libraries and the university and research libraries.

The **Centre National de Recherches Oceanographique et Des Peches** (CNROP) in Nouadhibou has a large and well resourced documentation centre, a statistics and data processing department and is establishing a Development Plan for Mauritanian Fishing. It also collaborates with FST.

The **Institut Supérieur des Sciences et Techniques Halieutiques** (ISSTH) de Nouadhibou has received support from IDRC for the development of its information systems.

Other relevant agencies:

- Réseau National d'Information
- Institut pédagogique national
- Institut mauritanien de la recherche scientifique

Organisational Activities in the ICT Sector:

[Institut Supérieur des Sciences et Techniques Halieutiques](#) It has received support from IDRC for the development of its information systems. It is in Nouadhibou.

[OPT Mauritania](#) This, the PTO, was requested by government to establish an Internet service by the government as part of its efforts to open the country's economy, improve its international presence and to increase international trade. Supplied as a turnkey solution by France Cable & Radio (FCR), the OPT's Internet presence is only in Nouakchott but it has established a special telephone number for dialup access to Internet services which makes the cost of access uniform throughout the whole country. However the tariff for dialing the number (which is bundled into the Internet access charge) is about \$6/hour which is about six times the normal local call tariff, making the service relatively expensive. Also, the quality of lines on analogue DOMSAT links from other towns is likely to limit access speeds.

While OPT focuses on supplying services to the public sector and international organisations, 5 companies resell to the private sector, with the University of Nouakchott taking responsibility for the academic/research sector. The companies selected by OPT are Top Technologies, BITS, Informa Bull, CompuNet and SIG.

The OPT is the primary partner in the UNDP's recently approved IIA/SDNP project (see separate

entry) which will help to establish a more extensive national network with POPs around the country, to build capacity for web content development and to obtain technical and administrative training in national network management and support for the resellers.

The Ministère de l'Intérieur, des Postes et Télécommunications is responsible for the telecommunications sector. There is no independent regulator - these functions are assumed by OPT which is sole provider of basic telecommunications services as well as x.25 and Internet services.

The OPT hosts the Afrinet web server (see separate entry for details and URL) under the ACCT assistance programme. It is expected to become the official national web server for the country.

<http://www.opt.mr/> webmaster@opt.mr

Top Technology The only ISP that is currently operational. <http://www.toptechnology.mr/Info@toptechnology.mr>

Centre Informatique The University of Nouakchott operates this facility on campus. It has been involved in some UNESCO IIP training activities but does not have a networking function. The Centre Informatique is mainly concerned with the use of ICTs for internal administrative services (registration etc) and training at the university. <http://www.univ-nkc.mr/> Mr Sid Ahmed Fall Dah webmaster@univ-nkc.mr

Faculte des Sciences et Technologie Part of the **University of Nouakchott**, it is the leading networking institution in the country. FST was previously called the Institut Supérieur Scientifique before it was expanded and integrated into the University. There are five departments of the Faculty, including the Department of Mathematics and Informatics (which has a masters programme in graduating 13 students a year). FST has established a committee of 8 professors to advise the University and others on ICT policies, including legal and ethical matters.

Aside from being UNESCO's IIP/RINAF focal point, the Faculty also has a number of international cooperation agreements with academic organizations including AUPELF-UREF, INRIA, the University of Moncton in Canada and the UNESCO chair centred in Las Palmas. The AUPELF-UREF supported Centre Syfed is expected to be located at the University.

Responsible for providing connectivity for the academic sector, FST has operated a dialup email connection to ORSTOM in Dakar since '96 and in March '98 it established a 64Kbps full Internet connection to the OPT's international hub. FST is also the top level domain administrator for .mr.

The World Bank has provided funding for 2 servers and the fittings for a special purpose-built building on campus which houses the Internet equipment of FST. Support for training and connecting the educational sector to the hub will also be supported by World Bank, partly through its WorldLinks for Development (WorLD) programme which has recently added Mauritania to its programme to assist with networking among secondary schools.

In Feb '98 the government finalised a US\$850 000 IIA/SDNP project for Mauritania of which 50% will be funded by UNDP. The PTO, OPT, will be the major recipient of the project which will help it to build a more extensive national network with POPs around the country, to build capacity in the country for web content development and to obtain technical and administrative Internet training for the OPT and the private ISPs. The project will be co-ordinated by Dr Amar who has been the head of the Computer Laboratories at FST since '96. <http://www.univ-nkc.mr/FST/> Prof. Ahmedou OULD HAUBA haouba@univ-nkc.mr

University of Nouakchott Hosts the Faculte des Sciences et Technologie which is the leading networking institution in the country. The University also operates a Centre Informatique on campus which has been involved in some UNESCO IIP training activities but does not have a networking function. The Centre Informatique is mainly concerned with the use of ICTs for internal administrative services (registration etc) and training at the university.

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The University of Pau / UNESCO Chair meeting and training session at the University of Nouakchott was delayed due to the presidential election and was eventually held in March 98.

<http://www.univ-nkc.mr/> webmaster@univ-nkc.mr

Afrinet The OPT hosts the Afrinet web server under the ACCT assistance programme. It is expected to become the official national web server for the country. It is the official government website, and is in French, Arabic and English. <http://www.mauritania.mr/>
webmaster@mauritania.mr

Centre d'information pour le développement économique et technique Has produced an extensive guide to using email and the Internet with support from coopération française.
cimdet@pactec.org

Réseau National d'Information sid-ahmed.fall@refer.org

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](#).