

SA's giant new sub-sea cable is here



By Duncan McLeod: @mcleodd

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The 14 000km West African Cable System (WACS), the first new sub-sea telecommunications cable along Africa's west coast since Sat-3 was launched 11 years ago, will be launched officially in about a month's time.

Angus Hay, co-chair of the WACS management committee and chief technology officer at Neotel, says testing of WACS has progressed well and the system is "essentially ready" for commercial service.

An official launch function will take place next month at Yzerfontein, the site of the cable's South African landing north of Cape Town. Commercial traffic should begin flowing across the system at the same time or shortly thereafter, promising to put further downward pressure on broadband prices in SA.

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ABOUT DUNCAN MCLEOD: @MCLEODD

Award-winning Duncan McLeod is the founder and editor of TechCentral (www.TechCentral.co.za, @TechCentral]), South Africa's latest technology news site offering breaking news, in-depth analysis and opinion that launched in September 2009. Before that, he was associate editor at the *Financial Mail/FM*. Contact Duncan on email duncan@techcentral.co.za and follow him on Twitter at @mcleodd.

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