

Africa-1: new super cable to connect Africa

Reports emerged on Monday that five telecommunications operators, including South Africa's MTN and Telkom, have designs on a new, superfast submarine cable system connecting Africa - including South Africa - with the Middle East (and onward to Europe) and South-Central Asia.



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The cable system will be known as Africa-1 and its backers hope to have it in service by the third quarter of next year. The other operators involved in the consortium to build the cable system, which will extend more than 12,000km along Africa's east coast up to Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Pakistan (before additional branches are added), are Saudi Telecom Company, Telecom Egypt and PCCW Global.

Neither MTN nor Telkom were immediately able to provide additional comment on their involvement in the cable project, including providing detail on how much they're investing. According to a statement issued by PCCW, Africa-1 will have at least three fibre pairs at its core and will use the latest 100G wavelength technology to allow for several terabits per second of capacity to be commissioned when the system goes live.

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