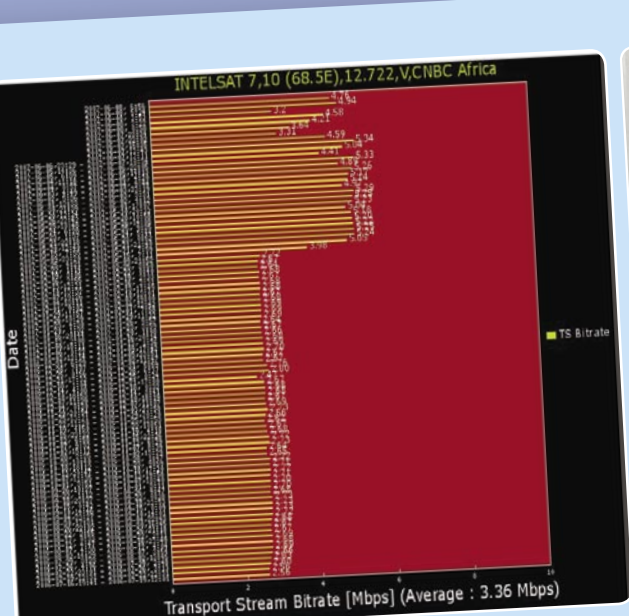


CNBC Africa

Alexander Wiese



The CNBC offices can be found in the Sandown Mews Building and occupy the top floor of the west wing.



SatcoDX's scan station bit rate measurement shows how CNBC Africa's transponder went active on May 10. These bit rate graphs are generated automatically for every transponder and are based on continuous measurements.



The signals are processed here. The Tandberg slots are for satellite operations. The slots for the terrestrial microwave link to SENTECH, the South African service provider for distribution of the signals.



Freddy is one of the operators. From here the signal goes...



Mike Bijsters is their Senior IT Technician. Here he is showing us the dishes on the roof that are occasionally also used by financial service provider REUTERS that is also in the same building. Mike is standing next to a 2.2-meter dish, behind him is another 2.2-meter dish, behind that a 1.8-meter dish pointed to INTELSAT 12 and then to top it of a 3.7-meter antenna. The Sandton Tower can be seen in the far background; it is a well-known apartment building in the suburb of Sandton north of Johannesburg.

The first African Business News Channel has been transmitting since June 1, 2007 and in principle it is the first pan-African channel. This new channel can be found on INTELSAT 10 at 68.5° east on 12.722V. SatcoDX found the test transmissions for this channel back on May 10. TELE-satellite wanted to know what was behind all of this and decided to pay a visit to the producers of this channel in Johannesburg.

Marisa Meyer is CNBC's Technical Manager and explained to us, "We were working on a very tight schedule. We could only start construction in the middle of January." The studios and the entire transmission network had to be built in just a few months. Marisa was relieved that everything worked out: "We are on the air live from 6:00AM to 10:00PM." CNBC reports on business in Africa; for the moment they are reporting on the financial markets in Johannesburg and Cape Town, South Africa, in Lagos and Abuja in Nigeria as well as in Nairobi in Kenya. Dedicated lines link the headquarters in Johannesburg with the studios in all the different financial markets while the links to Nigeria and Kenya occur via EUTELSAT W3A at 7° east. Peter Ndoro, Corporate Communications Director, let us in on his future plans: "In the next two years we want to expand our coverage to at least 10 additional African countries."

They also plan to continue transmitting FTA in order to reach as many viewers as possible. They are very ambitious!



Operators in the Final Control Center. to the satellites.



A look in the CNBC Africa studio