COMMUNICATING SET TO DEEP RURAL: PACK A PUNCH BY GOING MOBILE INTERACTIVE

JOHAN VAN DER MERWE

DISCOVERY CENTRE/ INSTITUTE FOR MARITIME TECHNOLOGY
NEED TO COMMUNICATE SET VIGOROUSLY IN SOUTHERN AFRICA:

- LACK OF ROLE MODEL SCIENTISTS/ENGINEERS
- LITTLE CAREER GUIDANCE FROM SCHOOLS
- LITTLE GUIDANCE FROM PARENTS
- LOW LEVEL OF ACHIEVEMENT IN MATHEMATICS/PHYSICAL SCIENCE
DISCOVERY CENTRE

ROLES OF TRANSPORTABLE, MOBILE AND PERMANENT CENTRES

LONG DISTANCES: FINANCIAL AND TIME IMPLICATIONS

ALL LEARNERS TO BE REACHED, NOT ONLY WEALTHIER COMPONENT
DISCOVERY CENTRE

DISCOVERY CENTRE, PHASE 1

- 60 TRANSPORTABLE MODULES, MULTIPLE ACTIVITIES PER MODULE
- IN OPERATION SINCE 1992: 800 000 VISITORS
- HAS VISITED ALL PROVINCES IN S A
- MODULES DESIGNED AND CONSTRUCTED IN S A
- PARTNERS: ESCOM, CAPE TECHNIKON
- TRUST OF VOLUNTEERS
- EXTREMELY LOW COST PER SCHOOL
PHASE 2: DISCOVERYMOBILE

- 4 YEARS OF OPERATION
- 32 INTERACTIVE EXHIBITS, ALL FIELDS OF SCIENCE
- FOCUS ON GRADES 5 TO 9
- A FEW DAYS PER SCHOOL
- FREE RUNNING SIMULATIONS IN WINDOWS
- BATTERY POWER OR GRID AC
- ONE DRIVER/SUPERVISOR
DISCOVERY CENTRE

PROJECT PARTNERS

- DISCOVERY CENTRE
- COMPUTER SOCIETY OF S A
- ISETT SETA: ELECTRONICS COMMUNICATIONS AND I T
- INSTITUTE FOR MARITIME TECHNOLOGY
- VODACOM FOUNDATION
DISCOVERY CENTRE

DESIGN PARAMETERS: CONTENT

- INTEREST LEARNERS IN SET CAREERS
- PROVIDE CAREER INFORMATION
- CUTTING EDGE ITEMS ILLUSTRATED
- EXCITING AND FUN EXPERIENCE
- SCHOOL SYLLABUS RELATED
DISCOVERY CENTRE

DESIGN PARAMETERS: HARDWARE

- MAXIMUM UTILISATION OF SPACE
- ACCOMMODATE LARGE GROUPS
- VERSATILE: BATTERY/MAINS/GENERATOR
DISCOVERY CENTRE

UTILISATION OF SPACE

- 12 WINDOW EXHIBITS: INTERACTIVE OR FREE RUNNING
- 22 MINI-LAN TERMINALS
- 5 MODULES INSIDE: INTERACTIVE OR DEMO
- 8 NOTEBOOK COMPUTERS ON INTRANET
- 4 NOTEBOOK COMPUTERS ON INTERNET
- INTERNET BY SATELLITE AND CELL PHONE OR LAND LINE
- ANTENNAS ON ROOF: SATELLITE RADIO, DATA, RADAR, NODDING ANTENNA FOR ELEVATION MEASUREMENT
- CONSIDER REMOVABLE MINI-LAN QUARTETS
DISCOVERY CENTRE

MECHANICAL DESIGN:

FROM CHASSIS UP TO ROOF TOP
MINI-LAN TERMINALS:

- 22 ON SIDES
- PORTABLE QUARTETS
INFRASTRUCTURE

- SECURITY:
  SAFES FOR NOTEBOOK COMPUTERS;
  SATELLITE ALARM SYSTEM
- 6 BATTERY SYSTEMS AND CHARGERS
- POWER SUPERVISOR SYSTEM
- ON-BOARD GENERATOR
- STORAGE FOR BROCHURES, PAMFLETS
- PUBLIC ADDRESS SYSTEM