

# SATELLITE SCHOOLS

## Evolution of Satellite for Education

The evolution of education via satellite is closely linked to the diversification of the role of the Internet in education. Back in the days Internet usage in classrooms was restricted to web browsing. Today, students make use of literally thousands of different online education tools and applications, not to mention platforms such as YouTube and streaming websites.

This educational revolution today reaches areas where broadband connectivity via terrestrial networks is not reliable or not available at all. In these areas the role of satellite in the education sector becomes increasingly important.

## Educating Students in Remote Villages

In most educational network deployments ST Engineering iDirect has installed VSAT equipment, the Newtec Dialog® multiservice platform. Via the Dialog platform broadband connectivity is delivered to schools in villages, small towns and rural areas offering new (educational) opportunities to the widest possible audience.

Even in far-flung areas – where it can be difficult to get all students to a central location - e-learning networks for distance learning are being set up to provide access to video content, webinars, live streaming and the latest educational packages online. These networks are also used by the schools themselves for administration and internal communication, or providing teachers with the latest

online training and lesson plans. Satellite communication enables the delivery of educational resources to schools, students at home, community centers and teacher centers.

As a satcom technology and equipment manufacturer, we work very closely with service providers and operators to ensure that the ever-changing needs of the education sector are met at all times. The Dialog satellite platform acts as a hub for schools in a designated area and creates a network that brings video, voice and data right into the classroom and the students' homes.

The benefits are clear – there is better retention of both educational staff and pupils, higher graduation rates and community-wide support for children's education.

### Education Future Satcom Needs

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The development of education through satellite needs continued support from governments and/or NGOs as funding will always be an obstacle. However, satellite continues to be a very cost-efficient and effective way of delivering broadband, so the industry needs to do as much as it can to provide value for money to ensure that it retains a key role in the future of rural broadband connectivity for both schools and communities. The continued emergence of High Throughput Satellite (HTS) technology will play an important part in this, bringing decreased costs and additional opportunities for the market.

### Solutions by ST Engineering iDirect

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We have provided satellite broadband equipment to schools and educational institutions in a number of underserved areas where terrestrial broadband networks are either impractical or not financially viable.

In Vanuatu, for example, our Dialog VSAT platform is being used by satellite operator Kacific to provide an affordable broadband internet connection at speeds of up to 17 Mbps to a school in Lambubu. This is delivered via a small VSAT terminal, meaning that the benefits of high speed Internet connectivity can also be used by other schools



and healthcare facilities in the wider local area.

In Indonesia, Dialog is also being used to deliver broadband access to underserved rural areas, including schools, government offices and Puskesmas (community health clinics) as part of the universal service obligation for MCIT – Indonesia's Ministry of Communication and Information Technology.

The biggest educational deployment however for our Dialog platform was in Morocco where the local service provider Nortis connected 4000 schools. Nortis, a subsidiary to Quantis, has been awarded this contract by the Morocco Ministry of Education as part of the GENIE project. The service will provide Internet access for students, while teachers will be able to benefit from courses through distance learning. The 4000 schools were installed and connected to the Dialog platform in a record 3 months timeframe.

### The Value of Satellite Schools

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Education provides a direct path towards food security and out of poverty. It increases economic development and builds people's confidence, enabling them to become self-sufficient, fully contributing members of their communities.

The widespread success of the VSAT platforms for educational satellite networks such as Dialog – particularly in rural areas - is reliant on three cornerstones: flexibility, scalability and efficiency. This means that the service offered can satisfy the needs of the schools as they change and do so in a cost-effective manner.