



**AERONAUTICAL TELECOMMUNICATION NETWORK (ATNS)
SEMINAR/WORKSHOP
AND
FIRST MEETING OF THE INTEGRATED REGIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION
INFRASTRUCTURE TASK FORCE
(Pretoria, South Africa, 24-28 June 2013)**

INFORMATION BULLETIN

1. Venue and Date

The meeting will be convened at Velmore Estate Hotel and Conference Centre, Erasmia, Pretoria, South Africa, from 24th to 28th June 2013.

2. Site of Hotel

The Velmore Hotel gently slopes to the banks of the Hennops River in Pretoria, the capital city of South Africa.

Velmore Hotel
Pretoria
Gauteng
South Africa
Tel: +27 (12) 370 7000
Email: confvelmore@orionhotels.co.za
www.velmore.co.za

3. Meeting Coordinator

Ms Susann Brits
Manager Business Development
Air Traffic and Navigation Services Co Ltd
Tel: +27 11 607 1163
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Mobile: +27825699849
Email: Susannb@atns.co.za

4. Delegates Registration

The registration of delegates will take place at the conference venue on 24th June 2011 from 08:00 to 09:00. Registration forms should be completed and sent to aithn@atns.co.za. Registration forms can be found at www.atns.co.za

5. Hotel Accommodation

We have secured a preferential rate at the following hotels. Delegates are requested to book their accommodation with ATNS and provide their travel itinerary.

Hotel Name	Reservations	Room Rate
Velmore Hotel, Pretoria	Ms Susann Briits ATNS susannb@atns.co.za	R 1 778.00 Single Room Bed and Breakfast

Booking Reference	ATNS	
Airport Transfer	R 50 pp per trip	Book with accommodation
Contact Details		
O R Tambo International Airport	60 km	40-60 minutes driving time
<p>Velmore gently slopes to the banks of the Hennops River. The style of the unique architecture is nostalgically inspired by French Provence'. The various buildings are spread so that they merge with the landscape leaving guests and patrons with sense of space and serenity. At night Velmore is magically transformed to a romantic place with the ambient glow of lamp light.</p> <p>The hotel provides a shuttle service from O R Tambo International Airport. This has to be booked with the hotel when the booking is made.</p>		

6. VISA requirements

To gain admission to South Africa it is necessary to be in possession of a valid passport and a visa if you are a citizen of a country that is subject to visa control.

All visa applications must be submitted to the nearest South African diplomatic or consulate representative together with the prescribed fee.

A letter of invitation if required may be obtained from the conference co-ordinator. The full names, passport number, dates of issue and date of expiry and country of issue must be provided.

Immunization for yellow fever is an entry requirement if your journey starts or passes through the yellow fever belt of Africa or South America.

The visa information is meant to serve as a guide only. The requirements for entry into South Africa differ from country to country, are subject to change and each application is treated as an individual case.

Welcome to the southern tip of Africa. Here, two great oceans meet, warm weather lasts most of the year, and big game roams just beyond the city lights.

Today, this country is the powerhouse of Africa, the most advanced, broad-based economy on the continent, with infrastructure to match any first-world nation.

You can drive on wide, tarred highways all 1 600 kilometres from Messina at the very top of the country to Cape Town at the bottom. Or join millions of passengers who disembark at our airports every year.

Two-thirds of Africa's electricity is generated here. Forty percent of the phones are here. Twenty percent of the world's gold is mined here. And almost everyone who visits is astonished at how far a dollar will stretch. Welcome to the Republic of South Africa.

7. About Pretoria and Gauteng



8. **Welcome to Pretoria**, the city in the northern part of Gauteng Province, South Africa. It is one of the country's three capital cities, serving as the executive (administrative) and de facto national capital; the others are Cape Town, the legislative capital, and Bloemfontein, the judicial capital.

Pretoria is sometimes regarded as being divided into three sections: West, East and north, relative to the CBD (Central Business District).

Pretoria is popularly known as The Jacaranda City due to the thousands of Jacaranda trees planted in its streets, parks and garden

9. What languages do people speak?

We speak English ... and more!

There are 11 officially recognized languages, most of them indigenous to South Africa. Everywhere you go, you can expect to find people who speak or understand English. Road signs and official forms are in English. At any hotel, the receptionists, waiters and porters will speak English. English is the language of the cities, of commerce and banking, of government, of road signs and official documents.

10. Weather

Winter, without rain. The average low temperatures 5 and high is 19. Bring warm clothes especially for the evenings.

11. Does South Africa have big cities with modern amenities?

There's more to Africa than lions. Johannesburg, a city of skyscrapers, sprawls wider than London or New York. The lights work, the water flows, there are multi-lane highways and - unfortunately - traffic jams. You can book into a Hilton or a Hyatt or a Holiday Inn and eat at cosmopolitan restaurants serving anything from sushi to burgers to crocodile steaks. Or you can just lie back on a couch and choose from five analogue and 53 digital TV channels.

12. You say the roads are tarred?

Yes, even in the smallest towns, where main roads often date back to the 19th century, and are wide enough to turn ox-wagons. Outside the cities, there are 8 000 kilometres of tarred and regularly maintained national highway, plus a thousand more kilometres of toll roads. Almost 1 500 kilometres of those routes are dual carriageway, with this number constantly rising. The national railway has 30 600 kilometres of rail track connecting the smallest hamlets. Some 3 600 locomotives pull 124 000 wagons of freight each day. There are three international airports big enough to land jumbos, 10 national airports large enough for most big commercial jets, and another 700 smaller airports.

13. Telephones

The phones work, and they dial abroad. The country's telecommunications operator Telkom, part government and part foreign owned, is the 28th largest in the world, and accounts for 39% of the phone lines on the African continent. It is well ahead of targets on an ambitious scheme to push telecommunications into the remotest rural communities.

You can rent mobile phones – known here as cellphones – from the airport on arrival. You should find an Internet café in even the smallest towns, and the postal service works, offering the usual letter and parcel services as well as securemail, freight and courier services.

Public telephones are either coin- or card-operated. Phone cards can be purchased at certain stores, post offices and airports.

14. Are there modern banks?

You can use Visa and Mastercard almost everywhere, and bank by ATM or online.

The banks are generally open from 09h00 to 15h30 Mondays through Fridays, and 08h30 to 11h00 on Saturdays, but those at the airports adjust their hours to accommodate international flights.

All major credit cards can be used in South Africa, with American Express and Diners Club enjoying less universal acceptance than MasterCard and Visa. In some small towns, you may find you'll need to use cash.

One anomaly - **you can't purchase fuel with a credit card**. Many locals have special fuel credit cards, known as garage or petrol cards, for use only at filling stations. You can, however, pay road tolls with MasterCard or Visa.

15. How far will my money go?

Okay, not as far as it would have some years ago, when South Africa's currency was well over 10 to the US dollar. Now the rand is a lot stronger (it is around R8.5/\$), but with the exchange rate still definitely in your favour, you'll find South Africa a very inexpensive destination.

South Africa's unit of currency is the rand, which is divided into 100 cents. Coins come in denominations of 5c, 10c, 20c, 50c, R1, R2 and R5, and notes in denominations of R10, R20, R50, R100 and R200.

16. Getting to South Africa

O R Tambo International Airport is a world class facility offers a host of features to make your travelling experience as comfortable and pleasurable as possible. Shops and restaurants, a bank and post office are just a few additional features O R Tambo International Airport. O R Tambo International Airport is located 56 km from Pretoria and its travel time can be 40-60 min depending on the time of the day.

17. Tipping

Tipping is optional. It is however usual to tip for restaurant service and hotel porters. Value added tax (VAT) is levied on most goods and services but as a foreign national you may reclaim VAT on anything you bought for over R250 to take out of the country unused. **You need to do this before you embark on your flight home and you will have to produce the original tax invoice for the item.**

18. Taxes and Duty

South African custom's passenger allowances entitle you to bring new or used goods of up to R3000 in value into the country without paying any duty. For additional goods, new or used of up to R12 000 in value you will be charged a flat rate of 20% duty. Thereafter normal customs duties apply.

You can also bring in duty free the following:

- Wine – 2l per person
- Spirits and other alcoholic beverages – 1l per person
- Cigarettes – 200 per person
- Cigars – 20 per person
- Perfume – 50ml per person
- *Eau de Toilette* – 250ml per person

The alcohol and tobacco allowances only apply to people over 18 years old.

All currency must be declared on entering the country. When you leave the country you are permitted to take up to R500 in South African Reserve Bank notes. A 20% levy is charged on amounts above R500.

19. Tips for staying out of trouble

Crime, like anywhere else in the world, can be a problem, but you really need not do much more than take all the usual sensible precautions. Know where you're going before you set off, particularly at night, watch your possessions, don't walk alone in dodgy areas, and lock your doors at night - much like anywhere else. And, like anywhere else in the world, there are some areas of major cities which are dodgier than others. It is easy to avoid these and still have a good time.

When walking through areas that are considered risky, avoid wearing visible jewellery or carrying cameras and bags over your shoulder. Keep cellphones and wallets tucked away where no one can see

them. Check beforehand that the areas you plan to visit are safe by asking hotel staff or police. It is not advisable to use local commuter and metro trains.

Other sensible advice is not to hitchhike or accept or carry items for strangers. Our airport security is quite strict so, to avoid delays in checking in, remove all sharp objects (even nail files and hairclips) from your hand luggage.

20. Stay out of jail!

And, while on the subject of crime, do bear in mind that committing a criminal offence in any foreign country is always more of a problem than doing so at home. You're probably not planning to, but there are a few actions which could land you in one of our not-too-luxurious jails. These include smuggling, bilking, and trading in, or using, recreational drugs – with the exception of tobacco and alcohol. Poaching is probably far from your mind but, just in case you're tempted to "harvest" a rhino horn as a souvenir, remember our game scouts are armed.

21. Health tips for travellers

While there are risks anywhere, South Africa has a relatively salubrious climate and our levels of water treatment, hygiene and such make it a pretty safe destination.

22. Medical facilities

Medical facilities in cities and larger towns are world-class. Trained medical caregivers are deployed round the country, so help is never far away.

23. The sun

We have a warm sunny climate and you should wear sunscreen and a hat whenever you are out of doors during the day, particularly between 10h00 and 16h00, regardless of whether there is cloud cover or not. Sunglasses are also recommended wear, as the glare of the African sun can be strong.

24. Can I drink the water?

High-quality tap (faucet) water is available almost everywhere in South Africa, treated so as to be free of harmful micro-organisms and in any area other than informal settlements, and is both palatable and safe to drink straight from the tap.

25. Do I need to take malaria tablets?

Consult your doctor or a specialist travel clinic for the latest advice concerning malaria prophylaxis, as it changes regularly.

Whether you take oral prophylaxis or not, always use mosquito repellent, wear long pants, closed shoes and light long-sleeved shirts at night, and sleep under a mosquito net in endemic areas (the anopheles mosquito, which carries malaria, operates almost exclusively after dark). It is advisable to avoid malarial areas if you are pregnant.

26. HIV/Aids

As in other countries, always take precautions when having sex. South Africa has one of the highest rates of HIV in the world.
