

# Africa's new 'space race' - 3 Apr 2017

BY LOUISE MARSLAND

Access to the internet for everyone all of the time, is coming. With global plans by Google, Microsoft and Elon Musk, to link the world in a network of satellites and other innovations, there will come a day when no despotic dictator can cut off the internet or threaten to curb internet freedoms to quell dissent against repressive regimes.

This is Africa's 'space race' - the race for internet connectivity across the continent and lower broadband costs, says [Michèle Scanlon](#), new business development at Gondwana International Networks.

If you want to know what it is like to live without the internet in this day and age in a thriving economic hub, read [Monique Kwachou's](#) stirring account of 'No Internet Cameroon' and the #Bringbackourinternet campaign. The English-speaking region of Cameroon has had its internet cut off by the government for three months, following protests.

In Kenya, it's a different story altogether as [Facebook and Surf](#) launch free Wi-Fi express hotspots for the populace, in the belief that access to the internet should be available and affordable for everyone.

Have a great week!

**Louise Marsland**

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