

## Top IT Trends to impact Africa In 2013

According to the Chinese zodiac, 2013, the [Year of the Snake](#), is the year for science and technology. But you do not have to be a seasoned astrologer to know that the ICT sector will play a major role within global commerce.

Closer to home, Africa has an opportunity to leverage off these trends, possibly even leapfrog, and elevate its international ICT profile.

So what are the trends that businesses must look out for? What are the disruptive/enabling technologies that will impact existing and emerging markets throughout the continent?

We have reviewed industry analysis, research and the opinions of operators to prioritise the most significant technology trends and developments that will shape Africa's commercial landscape this year.

- **Growing interest in eCommerce and online trade**

In November 2012 research by Cisco Systems estimated that global e-commerce would increase 13.5% annually over the next three years and reach an estimated \$1.4 trillion in 2015.

- **Enter the business incubator**

With the continued relevance of ICT within emerging markets across Africa and growing number of ventures being established, the role of programs and initiatives designed to aid/nurture businesses has been emphasised. The main purpose of incubators is to support the formation and sustainability of startup businesses, run by those wanting to get a firm grip on the growing market....

- **International tech funds focussing on Africa**

Research shows that a number of seed funds and venture capital firms have been established locally and also by companies abroad to contribute towards Africa's burgeoning ICT market. Examples are the Savannah Fund, launched in Nairobi with the intention to create and sustain a 'Silicon Valley-style' accelerator model for East Africa, as well as Zimbabwe's Matamba Anonaka Technology Holdings...

- **Impact of mobility on the workplace**

Research shows that the BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) trend has represented a 'hot potato' for decision makers, mainly due to concerns with security issues, integration, lack of remote management and incompatibility....

- **Cloud build-up over markets**

Cloud technology is considered disruptive and continues to hover as a major influence within ICT, particularly in terms of its role in the development of Africa....

- **More broadband for long-term growth**

Long Term Evolution (LTE) has moved from concept stage to actual rollout, including in Africa. It is advancement on previous wireless technology standards including GSM/EDGE, HSDPA and HSDPA and has been developed and rolled out to consumers to enhance network speeds and throughput on communication...

- **Social media as Africa's news source**

The convergence of mobile devices and social networks represents a force to be reckoned with in terms of news dissemination across the continent....

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