

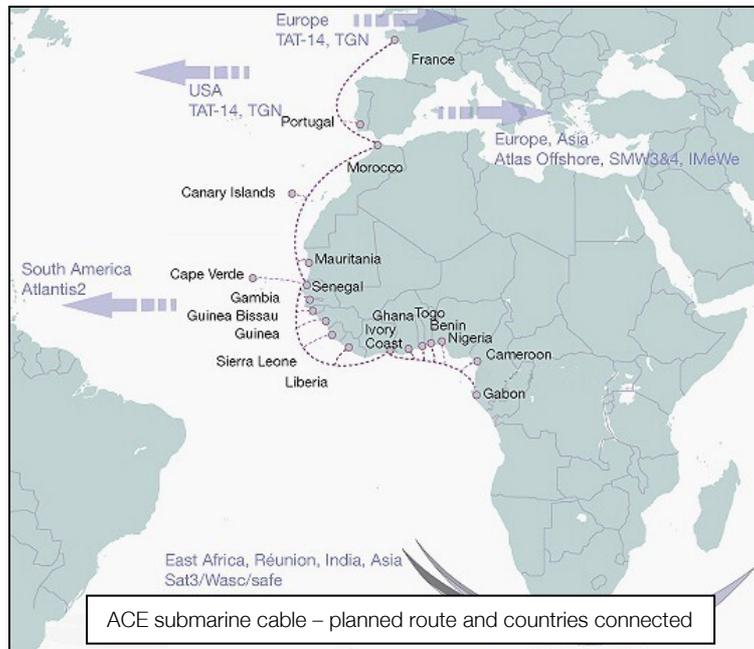


## Orange partners ACE, a new submarine fibre-optic cable that will connect 20 African countries to broadband internet

On November 27, 2008, France Telecom-Orange signed a memorandum of understanding leading up to the installation of a submarine fibre-optic cable that will provide over 20 countries within the West African coastal region with internet access.

This 12,000 km cable, called ACE (Africa Coast to Europe), will extend from Gabon to France, and from 2011 will connect Gabon, Cameroon, Nigeria, Benin, Togo, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Senegal, Gambia, Cape Verde, Mauritania, Morocco, Spain, Portugal and France. An extension to South Africa is also being studied.

For this project, France Telecom and its subsidiaries Côte d'Ivoire Telecom, Orange Bissau, Orange Cameroun, Orange Guinée, Orange Mali, Orange Niger, Orange Spain and Sonatel have teamed up with numerous international operators.



This new cable will benefit from the latest high-performance technology currently used in submarine cables, Dense Wavelength Division Multiplexing (DWDM), and will operate perfectly alongside existing systems. It will contribute to the development of telecommunications networks, a determining factor in West Africa's socio-economic development. Thanks to this new submarine cable, internet-based services will benefit from excellent international connectivity.

France Telecom, which operates in 15 African countries, is already co-owner of several submarine cables in this part of the world: Sat3-Wasc-Safe, one of the longest in the world linking Portugal to Malaysia down the West coast of Africa, and Atlantis 2 linking Portugal to Argentina via Senegal.

With this new cable, France Telecom-Orange will be helping reduce the digital divide and bring solutions to improve the daily lives of the people it reaches.





#### **About France Telecom**

France Telecom, one of the world's leading telecommunications operators, serves more than 177 million customers in five continents as of September 30, 2008, of which two thirds are Orange customers. The Group had consolidated sales of 52.9 billion euros in 2007 and 39.9 billion euros for the nine first months of 2008. As of September 30, 2008, the Group had 117.6 million mobile customers and 12.4 million broadband Internet (ADSL) customers. Launched in June 2005, the NExT program (New Experience in Telecommunications) will enable the Group to pursue its transformation as an integrated operator and make France Telecom the benchmark for new telecommunications services in Europe. In 2006, Orange became the Group's single brand for Internet, television and mobile services in the majority of countries where the company operates, and Orange Business Services the brand name for services offered to businesses worldwide. France Telecom is the number three mobile operator and the number one provider of broadband Internet services in Europe and one of the world leaders in providing telecommunication services to multinational companies.

France Telecom (NYSE:FTE) is listed on Euronext Paris (compartment A) and on the New York Stock Exchange.

*For more information: [www.orange.com](http://www.orange.com), [www.francetelecom.com](http://www.francetelecom.com), [www.orange-business.com](http://www.orange-business.com)*

**Press contacts - + 33 1 44 44 93 93**

**Sébastien Audra, [sebastien.audra@orange-ftgroup.com](mailto:sebastien.audra@orange-ftgroup.com)**

**Tom Wright, [tom.wright@orange-ftgroup.com](mailto:tom.wright@orange-ftgroup.com)**

