

About Our Network

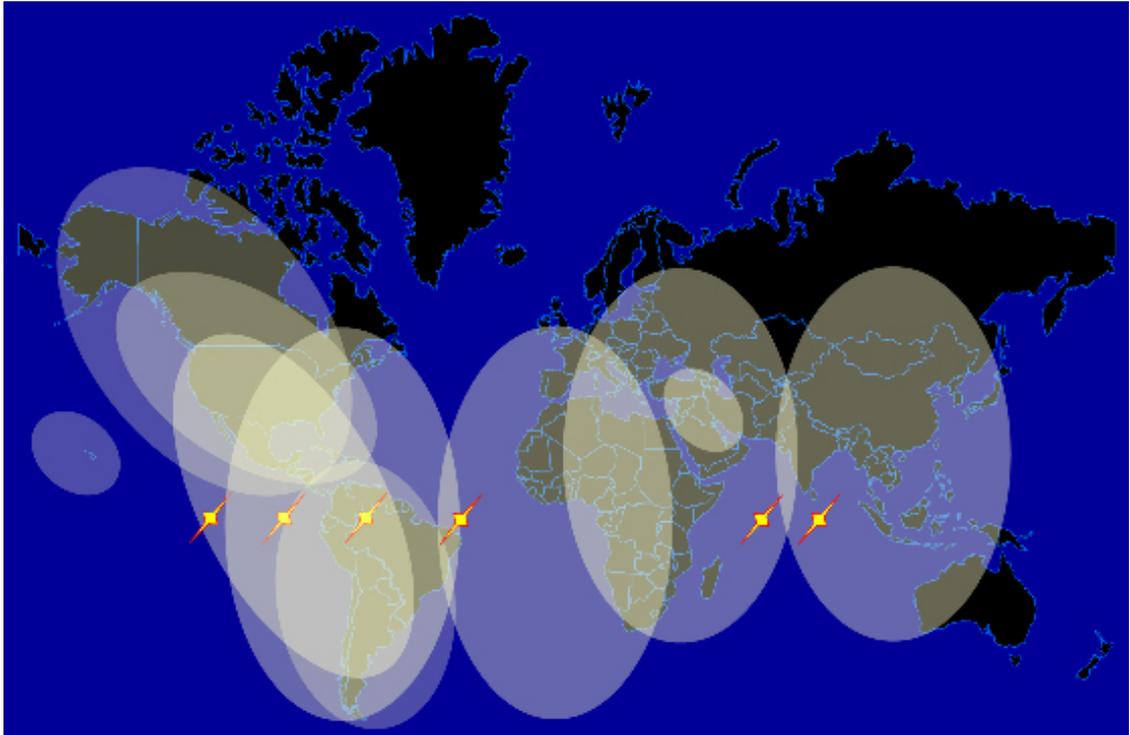
Introduction

The DRASTIC network has been designed to satisfy the specific needs of users in the developing world. The key aspects of the network are:

- Coverage
- Affordability
- Logistics
- Reliability and service

Coverage

As at August 2005, our coverage is approximately as shown on the illustration below. The more heavily shaded areas simply show coverage from more than one satellite. Additional options are being developed to give even fuller coverage in the near future. *Please contact us for details of exact coverage at your location.*



Affordability and Logistics

We have designed our global coverage so that no location will require an antenna (dish) bigger than 2.4m. The weaker signals available from some other satellites require more expensive larger dishes and higher powered outside electronics. These add considerably to the cost of buying, transporting and installing a VSAT system. For transportability, we have selected antennas that are available in sections which will enable transport in light aircraft down to Cessna 206 in size. In many areas, 1.2m or 1.8m antennas can be deployed successfully. These are smaller, lighter and less costly again.

Reliability and service

Our network is extremely robust and well managed. The network is served by Network Operations Centers (NOCs) based at four teleports in the USA and Europe. These are staffed by highly experienced specialists 24 hours a day, every day. Every part of the network is interconnected by dedicated DS3 high speed internet connections and redundant connections to the Internet. This means that if any single NOC becomes unavailable, its functions can be immediately and fully assumed by one of the other NOCs. Power supplies are also fully redundant with multiple generators and fuel available for at least 100 hours operation independent of national power grids. This is the infrastructure which ensures reliability and through which excellent service is delivered.



One of the NOCs in the USA



One of the teleports in the USA



32 meter antennas at one of the European teleports.

For more information about DRASTIC see www.drasticom.org or email us at info@drasticom.org