

„Satellite Grandfather“

Ivor Cartmell is very proud of his nickname: "Grandfather of Satellites". He was born in Zambia, an area that previously belonged to North Rhodesia. In his own quiet way he really does live up to the name "grandfather". And as such he has accumulated quite a bit of satellite business experience.

Ivor, who studied mechanical engineering, worked as a manager in the production of brakes and clutch assemblies. After he retired, he devoted his time to satellite reception. The deciding factor was a Christmas present he received in 1994. Ivor explains, "My son gave me a satellite system as a gift."

When the PayTV provider DSTV started a few years later, Ivor started his business. In 1998 he entered into a cooperation with the religious 7th Day Adventists who transmit the 3ABN channel via THAICOM. Today Ivor supports 10 installers and supplies them with complete sets at a good price. "80% of these systems are shipped with a 65cm antenna, the remainder get a 100cm dish", explains Ivor.

He sells 500 to 600 of these systems every year and utilizes his employees to install about 100 of these systems. Ivor has ambitions: "It is my dream to operate an uplink station." He certainly has the room for it.

Ivor inside his shack in which he is constantly at work testing new receivers and pre-programming them before they are sold to customers.



Ivor in front of his locally made 4.0-meter mesh antenna; the holes in the mesh are so small that this dish is perfectly suited for the Ku-band. He installed the actuator in such a way that he can turn his antenna nearly 180°! Other dishes include three motorized 2.2-meter antennas as well as smaller 1.2-meter and 60cm antennas. The "flowered" antenna is pointed to THAICOM at 78.5° east for the C-band with the Ku-band LNB looking at 68.5° east.





On this plot in the suburb of Midrand, north of Johannesburg, Ivor has room for not only numerous antennas, but also for chickens and a swimming pool.

To the left partially hidden behind a tree are three more 100cm antennas installed near the corner of the house and aligned to 36° east (for Multichoice), 68.5° east (for Christian Channel) and 16° east (for the French-language channels from Mauritius and Madagascar).

