



Release Report

Release Title

West and Central Africa connects to the global R&E network to unleash its potential

Release distributed 19.01.2018 Report Created 31.01.2018

Distributed for

GEANT

on behalf of AfricaConnect2

Headline: West and Central Africa connects to the global R&E network to unleash its potential

URL: <https://steelguru.com/gas-oil/west-and-central-africa-connects-to-the-global-r-e-network-to-unleash-its-potential/500771>

RIR Score:	★★
Coverage type:	Editorial
PDF Permission:	Unavailable
Site Name:	Steel Guru
Identified:	25/01/2018
Published:	25/01/2018
Site Location:	India
Language:	English
Site online since:	28 April 2005
Other sites linking in:	593
Advertising rates:	No advertising available.
Alexa traffic rank:	362,167
Site target audience:	SteelGuru is an attempt to make one-of-a-kind place to help individuals and companies in the business of steel and allied materials to do better by utilizing information. SteelGuru website has some more features including advance search function, archives, technical information, specifications, glossary and converters etc, which can be accessed by a registered user only.
Other:	SteelGuru was started in June 2005 and now our web site gets more than 20,000 page hits per day, which makes it the most popular steel portal in English language globally. In addition there are more than 30,000 subscribers spread across 138 countries, who receive STT everyday, making STT largest

Headline: West and Central Africa connects to the global R&E network to unleash its potential

URL: <https://www.totaltele.com/499051/West-and-Central-Africa-connects-to-the-global-RE-network-to-unleash-its-potential>

RIR Score:	★★★
Coverage type:	Selective
PDF Permission:	Permission Granted
Site Name:	Total Telecom
Identified:	22/01/2018
Publisher:	Terrapinn Ltd
Published:	19/01/2018
Site Location:	UK
Language:	English
Site online since:	09 October 1996
Other sites linking in:	675
Advertising rates:	£80 cpm
Readership:	105,000
Alexa traffic rank:	398,857
Site target audience:	Total Telecom meets the information and research needs of the Global Communications industry, from breaking news to expert analysis. It is the leading communications link between end users and the vendors, carriers and resellers of telecommunications technology and services. Total Telecom Online provides breaking news, archives, research reports and more. The site keeps more than 100,000 monthly unique users worldwide up to date and in touch with the latest reports and events from the global communications industry.

Headline: West and Central Africa connects to the global R&E network to unleash its potential

URL: <https://www.firmenpresse.de/pressrelease571161/west-and-central-africa-connects-to-the-global-runde-network-to-unleash-its-potential.html>

RIR Score:	★★
Coverage type:	Selective
PDF Permission:	Permission Granted
Site Name:	firmenpresse
Identified:	22/01/2018
Publisher:	Layer Media
Published:	19/01/2018
Site Location:	Germany
Language:	English
Other sites linking in:	2,088
Advertising rates:	Media Kit
Readership:	3,146,000,000
Alexa traffic rank:	387,726
Site target audience:	firmenpresse is a German and English portal that provides the latest press releases, articles and support. firmenpresse actively distributes press releases and also offers a comprehensive directory of public relations providers. firmenpresse would be of interest to European PR professionals covering a huge variety of themes and topics.

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URL: <http://dmnnewswire.digitalmedianet.com/articles/viewarticle.jsp?id=5257402>

RIR Score:	★★
Coverage type:	Selective
PDF Permission:	Permission Granted
Site Name:	DMN Newswire
Identified:	22/01/2018
Publisher:	Digital Media Net
Published:	19/01/2018
Site Location:	USA
Language:	English
Site online since:	05 March 1999
Other sites linking in:	1,810
Advertising rates:	Media Kits
Readership:	1,000,000
Alexa traffic rank:	616,631
Site target audience:	DMO Newswire is the leading source of daily news covering the digital media creation, information technology and enterprise solutions industries. DMO Newswire is for professionals in the digital production and digital creative industries.

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URL: <http://corporatemedianews.digitalmedianet.com/articles/viewarticle.jsp?id=5257402>

RIR Score: ★★
Coverage type: Selective
PDF Permission: Permission Granted
Site Name: Corporate Media News
Identified: 22/01/2018
Publisher: Digital Media Net
Published: 19/01/2018
Site Location: USA
Language: English
Site online since: 05 March 1999
Alexa traffic rank: 616,631
Site target audience: Corporate Media News is a digital media creation for corporate and business applications. Corporate Media News houses information for designers, art directors, illustrators, and videographers and other media.

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URL: <https://www.businesspress24.com/pressrelease1531638.html>

RIR Score: ★★
Coverage type: Selective
PDF Permission: Unavailable
Site Name: businesspress24
Identified: 22/01/2018
Publisher: LayerMedia
Published: 19/01/2018
Site Location: Germany
Language: English
Alexa traffic rank: 1,529,271
Site target audience: businesspress24 is a German language online press release site. The portal hosts stories about a range of topics for its broad readership, including: business news, education, healthcare, lifestyle, media, IT and telecommunications.

Headline: West and Central Africa connects to the global R&E network to unleash its potential

URL: <http://reprototype.com/west-and-central-africa-connects-to-the-global-re-network-to-unleash-its-potential/>

RIR Score: ★★
Coverage type: Selective
PDF Permission: Permission Granted
Site Name: Reprototype
Identified: 22/01/2018
Published: 19/01/2018
Site Location: USA
Language: English
Alexa traffic rank: 2,454,564
Site target audience: Reprototype.com is an online news release website which targets news from technology and different industries. We strive to provide updated news releases to our audience suiting their interest. A place where you can find press releases ranging from automotive to telecommunication, and aerospace to manufacturing and retail industry, and many more.



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URL: http://www.yourindustrynews.com/news_item.php?newsID=147288

RIR Score: ★★
Coverage type: Selective
PDF Permission: Unavailable
Site Name: Your Industry News
Identified: 23/01/2018
Publisher: NewsBase
Published: 22/01/2018
Site Location: UK
Language: English
Other sites linking in: 218
Advertising rates: Media Pack
Alexa traffic rank: 2,370,357
Site target audience: Your Industry News is the homepage for a collection of other sites covering several industries, Your Industry News covers Oil, Gas, Maritime, Defence and other industries, Your Industry News accepts news submissions but is selective with what will be published.

Headline: GÉANT awards 15-year contract to MainOne for connectivity services

URL: <https://africabusinesscommunities.com/news/nigeria-g%C3%A9ant-awards-15-year-contract-to-mainone-for-connectivity-services/>

RIR Score: ★★
Coverage type: Selective
PDF Permission: Unavailable
Site Name: Africa Business Communities
Identified: 23/01/2018
Published: 22/01/2018
Site Location: General
Language: English
Alexa traffic rank: 341,823
Site target audience: Africa Business Communities is a Digital B2B Publisher that enables companies and organizations to connect with African Business Professionals. Africa Business Communities supports doing business in Africa by marketing and communication services, custom media productions and market research. Africa Business...
Other: The social networks of Africa Business Communities connect over 1,000,000 business professionals worldwide with an interest in the continent Africa.
Social shares:  Facebook: 1  LinkedIn: 5

Headline: West and Central Africa connects to the global R&E network to unleash its potential

URL: <http://www.itnewsonline.com/realwire/West-and-Central-Africa-connects-to-the-global-RE-network-to-unleash-its-potential/20460>

RIR Score: ★★
Coverage type: Selective
PDF Permission: Permission Granted
Site Name: IT News Online
Identified: 22/01/2018
Published: 19/01/2018
Site Location: India
Language: English
Site online since: 14 January 2005
Alexa traffic rank: 1,439,035
Site target audience: IT News Online covers the latest IT industry news worldwide in many categories ranging from telecom to gaming. IT News Online is for IT industry professionals who want to keep up to date with the latest news and releases.

Headline: West and Central Africa connects to the global R&E network to unleash its potential

URL: <http://www.techrecur.com/west-and-central-africa-connects-to-the-global-re-network-to-unleash-its-potential/>

RIR Score:	★★
Coverage type:	Selective
PDF Permission:	Unavailable
Site Name:	TechRecur
Identified:	22/01/2018
Published:	19/01/2018
Site Location:	USA
Language:	English
Other sites linking in:	38
Advertising rates:	No advertising available
Alexa traffic rank:	2,224,714
Site target audience:	TechRecur is a blog providing news content relating to technology, in particular topics from the global telecom industry. It focusses on mobile/wireless products, the latest mobile apps , mobile 2.0, and industry news such as mergers & acquisitions. TechRecur would...
Social shares:	 LinkedIn: 1

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URL: http://www.yourcommunicationnews.com/news_item.php?newsID=147288

RIR Score:	★★
Coverage type:	Selective
PDF Permission:	Unavailable
Site Name:	Your Communication News
Identified:	23/01/2018
Publisher:	NewsBase
Published:	22/01/2018
Site Location:	UK
Language:	English
Other sites linking in:	77
Advertising rates:	Media Pack
Alexa traffic rank:	9,299,090
Site target audience:	Your Communication News is part of the Your Industry News collection of sites. Your Communication News is dedicated to the telecoms industry and would appeal to professionals across levels and sectors within the industry.

Headline: MainOne wins 15-year deal to connect West, Central Africa’s research institutes

URL: <http://aptantech.com/2018/01/mainone-wins-15-year-deal-to-connect-west-central-africas-research-institutes/>

RIR Score: ★★
Coverage type: Selective
PDF Permission: Unavailable
Site Name: aptantech
Identified: 23/01/2018
Publisher: WordPress
Published: 19/01/2018
Site Location: Kenya
Language: English
Alexa traffic rank: 1,323,482
Site target audience: aptantech, first published in 2009, is a news source and blog covering technology and business-related developments in Kenya, Africa and the world. aptantech offers the following sections; news, reviews, analysis & features, CSR, Tech&PR, Week-in-Tech, events and NoticeBoard.

Social shares:  Facebook: 1  LinkedIn: 1

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URL: <http://www.videobasedtutorials.com/articles/viewarticle.jsp?id=5257402-0>

RIR Score: ★★
Coverage type: Selective
PDF Permission: Permission Granted
Site Name: VIDEO BASED TUTORIALS
Identified: 22/01/2018
Publisher: Digital Media Net
Published: 19/01/2018
Site Location: USA
Language: English
Readership: 350,000
Alexa traffic rank: 3,903,447
Site target audience: VIDEO BASED TUTORIALS from the Digital Media Network provides tech news and tutorials for computer programmes to the tech savvy who want to extend their skills.

Headline: West and Central Africa connects to the global R&E network to unleash its potential

URL: <https://www.balancingact-africa.com/news/telecoms-en/42551/west-and-central-africa-connects-to-the-global-re-network-to-unleash-its-potential>

RIR Score:	★★
Coverage type:	Selective
PDF Permission:	Unavailable
Site Name:	balancing act
Identified:	31/01/2018
Publisher:	Not known
Published:	26/01/2018
Site Location:	UK
Language:	English
Site online since:	28 June 2000
Alexa traffic rank:	958,842
Site target audience:	balancing act provides internet, telecoms and broadcast news focused on Africa. The news related to topics that are relevant to the continent, as well as providing insights into their wider impact on the telecoms world. Balancing Act seeks to be the primary source for information on the telecoms, Internet and audio-visual media industries in Africa.
Other:	Balancing Act Africa also has a consultancy branch, offering advice to businesses and SMEs

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URL: <http://www.tacktech.com/news.cfm?subtype=tech&nid=70733&meta=west-and-central-africa-connects-to-the-global-rampe-network-to-unleash-its-potential>

RIR Score:	★★
Coverage type:	Selective
PDF Permission:	Permission Granted
Site Name:	Tack Tech
Identified:	22/01/2018
Published:	19/01/2018
Site Location:	USA
Language:	English
Site online since:	09 February 2000
Other sites linking in:	466
Advertising rates:	\$10 - \$20 per 10,000 impressions
Alexa traffic rank:	958,970
Site target audience:	TACKtech provides computer related hardware and software news as well as reviews, tutorials, and technical articles. TACKtech is useful for all computer owners and internet users who want to get information and downloads to improve their PC and internet service. 5 Most Active Countries: United States of America (69.15 %), Australia (3.45 %), European Union (3.07 %), Indonesia (2.68 %), Canada (2.63 %).

Headline: West and Central Africa connects to the global RE network to unleash its potential

URL: <http://cyberparse.co.uk/2018/01/19/west-and-central-africa-connects-to-the-global-re-network-to-unleash-its-potential/>

RIR Score: ★★
Coverage type: Selective
PDF Permission: Permission Granted
Site Name: Cyber Parse
Identified: 22/01/2018
Published: 19/01/2018
Site Location: UK
Language: English
Alexa traffic rank: 1,990,559
Site target audience: Cyber Parse was created to provide knowledge to help everyone understand and deal with the ever increasing threats we all face by Cyber Crime (Malware, Social Engineering, Phishing and hacking). Their purpose is to provide the right information to their readers.

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URL: <http://nerdpress.com/news.cfm?subtype=Tech&nid=70733>

RIR Score: ★
Coverage type: Selective
PDF Permission: Permission Granted
Site Name: Nerd Press
Identified: 22/01/2018
Published: 19/01/2018
Site Location: USA
Language: English
Other sites linking in: 9
Advertising rates: \$5
Readership: 700
Alexa traffic rank: 3,898,937
Site target audience: Nerd Press is an up and coming blog that reports on the latest fun products and brings advanced discussion and support. Nerd Press is aimed at people that love blogs, blogging and the internet.

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URL: <http://www.m2.com/m2/web/story.php/20187472939>

RIR Score: ★★ ★
Coverage type: Non-selective
PDF Permission: Permission Granted
Site Name: M2 Communications
Identified: 22/01/2018
Publisher: M2 Communications
Published: 19/01/2018
Site Location: UK
Language: English
Site online since: 20 January 1995
Other sites linking in: 161
Advertising rates: None accepted
Alexa traffic rank: 1,181,472
Site target audience: M2 Communications is a international publishing and media service company. M2 Communications' homepage links into websites, partners and displays news stories and press releases focused towards business and finance. M2 Communications sites are a source for journalists and professionals.

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URL: <http://menafn.com/1096370193/about.html>

RIR Score: ★★ ★
Coverage type: Non-selective
PDF Permission: Unavailable
Site Name: Menafn
Identified: 22/01/2018
Published: 20/01/2018
Site Location: Unknown
Language: English
Site online since: 26 May 2000
Alexa traffic rank: 115,388
Site target audience: The Middle East North Africa Financial Network, Inc. (MENAFN) is the leading provider of online and wireless financial content and financial technology platforms to leading institutions and consumers around the Arab world.

Headline: West and Central Africa connects to the global R&E network to unleash its potential

URL: <https://www.wesrch.com/business/paper-details/press-paper-BU187Q000PCAS-west-and-central-africa-connects-to-the-global-r-e-network-to-unleash-its-potential>

RIR Score: ★★
Coverage type: Non-selective
PDF Permission: Permission Granted
Site Name: weSRCH
Identified: 22/01/2018
Publisher: weSRCH
Published: 19/01/2018
Site Location: USA
Language: English
Other sites linking in: 2,666
Advertising rates: Details on site
Alexa traffic rank: 45,129
Site target audience: weSRCH is an online community where documents, papers and reasearch can be published and uploaded. weSRCH covers areas across electronics, business, IT, energy, the environment and other pop culture news.

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URL: <http://home.nestor.minsk.by/networks/press/2018/01/1904.html>

RIR Score: ★★
Coverage type: Non-selective
PDF Permission: Permission Granted
Site Name: Networking News
Identified: 22/01/2018
Publisher: networking news
Published: 19/01/2018
Site Location: Unknown
Language: English
Alexa traffic rank: 127,257
Site target audience: Networking News is an English web supplement to Network Solutions, a monthly magazine on global and local networks. Although Network Solutions is produced in Russian only the publishers received a lot of English material and press releases and so they set up this site to house original English networking news for networking professionals.

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URL: <http://www.telcoprofessionals.com/pressreleases/9389/west-and-central-africa-connects-to-the-global-r-e-network-to-un>

RIR Score: ★★
Coverage type: Non-selective
PDF Permission: Permission Granted
Site Name: TelcoProfessionals
Identified: 22/01/2018
Publisher: TelcoProfessionals
Published: 19/01/2018
Site Location: France
Language: English
Alexa traffic rank: 266,144
Site target audience: TelcoProfessionals is an online community, news and blog source, exclusively for the Telecom industry.

Headline: West and Central Africa connects to the global R&E network to unleash its potential

URL: <http://www.bizwireexpress.com/showstoryRW.php?storyid=278561>

RIR Score: ★★
Coverage type: Non-selective
PDF Permission: Permission Granted
Site Name: BizWire Express
Identified: 22/01/2018
Publisher: BizWire Express
Published: 19/01/2018
Site Location: India
Language: English
Other sites linking in: 365
Advertising rates: Top Banner 728 x 90 \$250
Alexa traffic rank: 1,893,605
Site target audience: BizWire Express is run by Adrian Viegas, the owner of IT News Online. BizWire Express is an aggregator that takes news from several wires and sites in one, easy to use source.

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URL: <http://home.nestor.minsk.by/computers/press/2018/01/1905.html>

RIR Score:	★
Coverage type:	Non-selective
PDF Permission:	Permission Granted
Site Name:	Computing News
Identified:	22/01/2018
Published:	19/01/2018
Site Location:	Unknown
Language:	English
Other sites linking in:	3,570
Advertising rates:	No advertising available
Alexa traffic rank:	127,257
Site target audience:	Computing News is a website where press releases on computing technology can be found and submitted by members. The site covers a wide variety of topics including computing and IT, company news, hardware, software, programming, training and how-to's. The news is aimed at IT experts and professionals especially the elite who want to read news and stay ahead of worldwide industry developments.

Release Title

West and Central Africa connects to the global R&E network to unleash its potential

Release distributed 19.01.2018 **Report Created** 31.01.2018

Cambridge and Accra |19 January 2018 - The EU-funded AfricaConnect2 project has just announced that, following the tender call to connect West and Central (W&C) Africa back in June 2016, GÉANT has awarded a 15-year contract to MainOne for connectivity services. By signing the contract through AfricaConnect2, WACREN, the regional Research and Education Network in West and Central Africa, will join the global Research and Education (R&E) networking community. In addition to that, a complementary contract was signed with XON Systems for the provision of equipment.

This comes at the time of an ever-widening digital divide. The slow and sporadic adoption of ICT technologies in W&C Africa has led to one of the lowest internet penetration rates in the world. In this light, the recent contract announcement will undoubtedly facilitate the digital economy and will allow WACREN to truly unleash its potential and work with its members to meet the needs of its users.

Welcoming the progress of the AfricaConnect2 project and underlining the importance of connecting the region to the global R&E network, Boubakar Barry, CEO of WACREN said: "The signing of the contracts with MainOne and XON is an important milestone in the journey WACREN has embarked on towards the provision of first-class network infrastructure for the education and research community in West and Central Africa. When the first connections will be up in the first quarter of 2018, the big hole that currently exists in the global research and education networking map will finally be closed".

Leveraging EU funding, AfricaConnect2 was able to secure a 15-year IRU (Indefeasible Right of Use) and pay an upfront circuit provisioning cost. This supports the EU objective of creating a sustainable, high-capacity data communications network that serves higher education and research institutions across the region.

Initially, the WACREN network will provide a 10Gbps link from Lagos, Nigeria to

London, UK where it interconnects with the pan-European GÉANT network, thus providing access to R&E collaborations with over 50 million researchers, academics and students across Europe. As part of the contract, an additional link will go out from Lagos terminating in Accra, Ghana. The implementation of this contract will not only connect the first two countries in West and Central Africa, but will also form the building block for the WACREN backbone in support of R&E communities across the entire Central and Western part of the African continent.

MainOne, the company which was awarded the contract for the provision of network connectivity services in the WACREN region after being successful in the highly competitive connectivity tender, is a leading provider of innovative telecom services and network solutions in West Africa.

Funke Opeke, Chief Executive Officer of MainOne, commended the commitment of WACREN to connect regional researchers to the global research and education communities across the world: “MainOne was born out of a passion to close the digital divide in West Africa and this agreement with WACREN leverages our capacity and provides us the opportunity to get all Research and Educational institutions in West Africa connected among themselves and to the rest of the world. We are delighted to have won this bid and believe we will add value to institutions in our region with our cost-effective and innovative connectivity solutions”.

On the other hand, the contract with XON Systems, an IP equipment provider, completes the first procurement cycle by introducing a 4-year framework agreement under which WACREN is able to purchase the IP Routing equipment required for setting up and running its regional network.

“XON have worked closely with GÉANT in the past on the AfricaConnect projects and we are honoured and privileged to have been selected as the IP-routing equipment supplier of choice to help build the AfricaConnect2 project for the WACREN network”, said Sub-Saharan Sales Manager Dewalt Uys. “By leveraging our vast experience of providing equipment and services to Tier-1 service providers across the continent, we can bring our vendor partnerships, engineering competency and logistics expertise as we help WACREN embark on this formidable and exciting journey.”

Celebrating this achievement, Cathrin Stöver, GÉANT’s Chief Collaboration Officer and the project manager of AfricaConnect2, said: “The global R&E community has just become stronger and more enriched. I congratulate WACREN on this milestone and invite its users to make the most of the unlimited opportunities that this sort of connectivity brings.”

Press contact:
Veronika Di Luna, GÉANT
Veronika.DiLuna@geant.org
+44 (0)1223 371344

About AfricaConnect2:

Appendix

Coverage/Site Information & Site Statistics Explained

Please find below an explanation of the site information and statistics contained within this report.

Site Information

Coverage Type

RealWire separates coverage into different types, which are explained below:-

- Editorial - editorial news sites are the equivalent to the traditional print media. A journalist will review your press release and choose to write (or not to write) about the information that you have provided.
- Selective - there are many sites that seek to provide readers with high quality relevant content through the publication of press releases. Here an editor will select your release for publication if they deem it of sufficient quality and relevance.
- Non-selective - these are sites that have decided directly or indirectly to publish all news from chosen sources as they know it will pass their quality and relevance tests. Your news, if relevant to the content of the site, is loaded unedited direct to the appropriate sector of the site.
- Blogs - a blog is a shareable online log of events or commentary in which the blogger expresses an opinion or comments on anything of his or her choosing. Anyone visiting a blog can add their own views, which may or may not agree with the blogger's. A key element of blogging is the community that reads the blog and comments on posts, interacting with each other and discussing the topic in question.
- User Generated Content (UGC) - user generated content covers sites where the content has been generated by users of that site, rather than by an editor or blogger. Examples of UGC sites would include forums, social network video sites (e.g. YouTube), and Wikipedia.

RealWire Influence Rating (RIR)

The RIR is calculated following consideration of a number of factors that might affect a site or blog's level of influence within its industry. Influence relates to the ability of a site to influence the relevant target audience .

Factors considered when calculating the RIR for a site include:

- Site target audience - the main focus of a site and its intended readership
- Coverage language - the language of the site/coverage
- Site location - which country the site is run from
- Number of visitors - the number of monthly unique users per month
- Publisher - the publisher of the site
- Advertising rates - a guide price based on a banner advert on the homepage or nearest equivalent

- Alexa overall rank - the comparative popularity of a site based on Alexa rank (the lower the rank the more popular the site)
- Technorati rank - the comparative authority of a blog based on Technorati rank of a site (the lower the rank the more popular the site)
- Site online since - the length of time a site has been online
- Other sites linking in - the number of other sites linking to the site based on Alexa data
- Navigation - how easy the site is to navigate
- Reputation - the reputation of a site within its industry
- Presentation - the overall visual presentation of a site
- Speed - how quickly pages load on a site

All of the above factors are collected and reviewed to come up with a sites' RealWire Influence Rating.