

„The pharmacist“



Pieter Redelinghuys lives in the small town of Klerksdorp, some 200 km southwest of Johannesburg in the North West Province and is one of the pioneers of satellite reception in South Africa. As early as in 1981 he was spending his free time building from scratch his first – no, not satellite antenna, but UHF antenna. Back at that time there was only the EKRAN satellite in the sky broadcasting Ostankino in the UHF range, the former Soviet Union's Channel One. TELE-satellite also reported on that bird in 1981, while Peter even to this day remembers its orbital position: "It was located at 99° East." A pharmacist by profession and the head of the pharmaceuticals supply at the local Klerksdorp public hospital until his retirement, Pieter finally decided to buy a 3.8 metre antenna in 1993, which he set up to receive signals from INTELSAT 1 at 27.5° West. Today this dish points to BADR at 26° East, above all to receive 'Dubai One', a channel broadcasting many new and recent TV series in English. Even though Pieter is a native speaker of Afrikaans he is not too fond of Dutch-language channel BVN, which he can of course also pick up. "Too much news," he criticises. Apart from his giant dish he also uses a smaller 1.8 metre antenna which is aligned towards BADR at 26° East as well but receives this position's Ku band signals, as well as three more 90 cm offset dishes pointed to TELSTAR 10, PAS 7 and PAS 10.

Pieter Redelinghuys is justifiably proud of his antennas, all of which he set up completely by himself. What he lacks in technical experience he makes up with his patient and meticulous manner.



In his shack Pieter demonstrates that everything works brilliantly, despite the chaos. The reception signal is transmitted right to his bedroom by way of a wireless transmitter, so that he can always stay hooked to his favourite channels such as CNN, Dubai One, National Geographic or Discovery Channel.