

Four billion people on the earth have no internet access. That will change if Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg's solar powered drone plan works.

A previous trial of his drone ended with a [crash landing](#), but a [May 2017 Test of the Aquila Drone](#) was a huge success.



Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg's long-term plan for the drone, called Aquila, is to have it and others provide internet access to 4bn people around the world who are currently in the dark.

“When Aquila is ready, it will be a fleet of solar-powered planes that will beam internet connectivity across the world,” he wrote on Facebook.

The drone flew with more sensors, new spoilers and a horizontal propeller stopping system to help it better land after the crash in December. It was in the air for an hour and 46 minutes and reached 3,000ft.

The drone weighs about 1,000lbs and has a longer wingspan than a Boeing 747. It runs mostly on autopilot but there are manned ground crews to manage certain maneuvers.

<https://youtu.be/G2xw47yTBVY>

If this is a success, and I expect it to be, it will not only bring free or extremely cheap internet access to the world, but also free or extremely cheap phone service.

Mike “Mish” Shedlock

COMMENTS



Macro Investor *said:*

The 4 billion people referenced have no computers, no/basic phones and no money. Facebook will just go broke and die faster. An easily copied business that relies on click fraud to stay alive.



Stuki Moi *said:*

It's expensive to compete with satellite providers. In dronespace, things are moving forward fast enough that whatever Zuck, with his billions, can do next year; cheap Chinese clones can do better, 3 years later.



pyrrhus *said:*

Three billion people make less than \$2/day...Great customers for Amazon?



Stuki Moi *said:*

Drones won't be providing landline like bandwidths and latencies until long past Zuck's death. This stuff is for places where there is currently NO access. Not for lowering bills for those already well served.



Rufus T Firefly *said:*

4,000,000,000 people will soon have access to Internet porn



MrV *said:*

Colour me a skeptic, but how many of such units are you going to need at an altitude of 3000ft? I think clusters of microsattellites holds more promise than this internet by balloon or solar plane. Then there is the issue of priorities, what a lot of these people need is not time wasting facebook, but clean water, food and decent shelter..



Medex Man *said:*

It says a lot about how out of touch with humanity the Silicon Valley crowd is that they think poor people need faceplant, instead of clean water and food. How about low cost medical treatments? Or practical education instead of political indoctrination?