



MEDIA STATEMENT

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MTC INTRODUCES LATEST STATE OF THE ART INTERNET TECHNOLOGY

[WINDHOEK, 15 DECEMBER 2009] - MTC announces the launch of a new Single Radio Access Network which is the latest technological development in the world today. This Single Radio Access Network combines several technologies in the same hardware, generating important energy and maintenance savings whilst significantly improving in quality of service.

Technology

This new architecture of radio network combines several technologies in the same hardware, namely 2G under 900 and 1800 MHz, GPRS, EDGE, 3G HSDPA and HSUPA, enabling the supply of 21 Mbps to a final user. The current software version HSUPA 7.2 launched today allows customers to go up to 7.2 Mbps in terms of downloading and up to 1.4 Mbps in uploading, which represents an increase of 2 to 4 times the current radio bandwidth. The advantage of this architecture is that it will allow MTC to introduce 4G technology smoothly because this hardware has been enabled to accommodate software for this new technology.

Green Savings

The energy savings measured in a trial conducted at Henties Bay during last July showed an impressive decrease of 50% in power consumption, underlining yet again MTC's resolve to reduce its carbon footprint in the country.

Quality & Maintenance

In terms of maintenance, and because of the fact that all technologies share the same hardware as well as the transmission connectivity, it is estimated that significant energy savings of up to 30% will be realised thus giving more bandwidth with the current capacity. The quality of service will also increase because calls will not be jumping between different hardware while technology handovers occur (from

2 to 3G and vice versa). After this deployment MTC's network will have 9,700 radio carriers (each carrier allowing 8 customers to be simultaneously connected) which represents a growth of 77% from February 2009 to May 2010.

Access

In terms of Data and Internet Access, this is a critical arm to supply MTC's customers with the bandwidth that is expected to be in Namibia by September 2011 from the WACS submarine cable. MTC and the fixed operator have each invested a total of US\$15 million in the WACS submarine cable. All of those improvements will allow Namibia to once for all to remove the gap that currently exists in terms of Internet access because of the constraints and expensive prices of the backhauls that connect African countries to the Internet world of Europe, the USA and Asia.

Investment

This investment of N\$183 million that was studied in detail in the past 6 months, of which the Henties Bay trial is an example, represents a strong commitment to maintain MTC's network as one of the best in Africa and perhaps even the whole world. The Single Radio Access Network will work in Windhoek and will be fully installed already during the second quarter of 2010. The rest of the country will receive the new 3G component at the same time, allowing customers in the North, Coast and South have access to 7.2Mbps or 21Mbps when the software is upgraded. In the immediate future, the Single Radio Access Network architecture will be deployed countrywide putting multi technologies in the same hardware everywhere very soon.

Requirements

With this new Network that is being launched today, with 5 base stations already in use, MTC's 3G customers are able to use Internet Access at a speed up to 7.2Mbps. To do that, MTC's Broadband Postpaid customers need to do an upgrade of their current packages. To check if they have the proper USB device, customers need to go to a MobileHome with the USB device. A check will be done and if the hardware requires and upgrade, a simple exchange will be done on the spot. The customer will only be required to sign a new 24 months contract waving the remaining time of the previous contract if it is not already expired. Should a hardware exchange not be necessary, then a simple subscription of the upgrade package will be required. New customers only have to sign a new MTC contract for 24 months in a MobileHome and will receive the USB equipment completely free.

Because more bandwidth allows customers to use more Internet content, a new Broadband package was created with a speed of up to 7.2Mbps included 5G in bundle, for a monthly price of N\$399 per month (N\$50 more than the current 3.2Mbps with 1G included). To motivate customers to upgrade to this new package, MTC will waive the additional N\$50 until end of June 2010 for the customers who upgrade, or subscribe, until end of February 2010. It is important to not forget that the "Happy Hour" campaign is also open & accessible for this new package, allowing customers to download and upload their contents on the Internet completely for free between 1 and 5AM.

MTC is not only leading the ICT revolution in Namibia with this new technological development but it is making inroads into becoming one of the best operators in the world in terms of quality, environmental awareness and diversified telecommunications service delivery whilst also living up to its commitment to its shareholders which are the Namibian Government and Portugal Telecom.

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ABOUT MTC:

MTC (Mobile Telecommunications Limited) was established in 1995 as a joint venture between Namibia Post and Telecommunications Holdings (NPTH), Telia and Swedfund. During May 2004, NPTH concluded a deal that saw it hold 100 per cent of the shares in MTC by acquiring the 49 per cent held by Telia Overseas AB and Swedfund International AB. During 2006 the sale of 34% of MTC shares to Portugal Telecom was concluded for N\$1.34 billion while the Namibian government retains the remainder of the stake through NPTH.

MTC currently covers 98 per cent of the population of nearly 2 million citizens with more than 650 base stations and repeaters and offers a dual band 900/1800MHZ. The company also expanded its cellular coverage to all major towns in Namibia, including the major arterial roads. It further runs two modern MSC's (mobile switching centre) in Windhoek and Oshakati with capacity to accommodate rapidly rising number of customers of over 1.3 million active users. MTC also operates the only full service customer contact centre in Namibia dealing with service queries ranging from telephony, sms, fax, GPRS, data, voicemail and 3G/HSDPA. A staff of 367 persons serves a diverse market of both pre- and postpaid subscribers.

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