



MEDIA STATEMENT

Start/

MTC TRIALS 4G TECHNOLOGY SUCCESSFULLY

WINDHOEK, 17 FEBRUARY 2011 – Local telecommunications giant, MTC, have taken a giant leap into the technological future, this after successfully trialing the fourth generation (4G) technology in Windhoek on Thursday.

Continuing to strive to be the most innovative Telecommunications Operator in Namibia, and one of the best in Africa, MTC today presented the new 4G technology that, through an optimization of radio spectrum, will allow better and higher levels of efficiency in terms of supplying the last mile of bandwidth in wireless mode and that will at the same time allow considerable energy saving.

Results of the 4G trial on Thursday, conducted in front of an audience comprising senior government officials, Zeinal Bava Chief Executive Officer of Portugal Telecom which holds 34 per cent in MTC and captains of the ICT industry, showed impressive speeds of over 100 megabits per seconds (Mbps) which is 20 times faster than the speeds churned out by the current 3G technology.

Comparative demonstrations between 3G and 4G upload and download speeds were also conducted, revealing remarkable download speed of 150 Mbps and 50 Mbps upload speeds. These are more than 20 times faster than the current version of Netman which, in itself is Namibia's fastest Internet at the moment. In practical terms, this means that one can download a movie in 53 seconds against 18 minutes of the previous technology, and only 0.3 seconds to download a MP3 song against 1 minute in the previous 3G.

Also included in the 4G demonstrations was the strength of the remote sonar tests as well as proof that in future, video cameras would not need cables to operate due to the strength of the 4G technology.

Significantly, once the 4G is officially commissioned, Namibia will be among the very few countries in the world to have migrated to 4G. Currently, only five countries all over the world have deployed the 4G technology so far.

The foundation for 4G was laid two years ago when MTC launched the new Single Radio Access Network which combines several technologies in the same hardware, generating important energy and maintenance savings whilst significantly improving quality of service. The advantage of this architecture is that it allows MTC to smoothly introduce 4G technology into Namibia.

MTC is further anticipating that the advent of the West African Cable System (WACS) in which it has invested N\$115 million, will result in improved and better Internet services at affordable rates to Namibians.

Driven by the realization that Internet is becoming an integral part of people's lives and that a lot of business is conducted via Internet, MTC is positioning itself to meet increased demand for bandwidth from all quarters.

MTC's Managing Director, Miguel Geraldes was quoted as saying that the 4G technology will not only provide faster Internet connectivity at fixed locations and on mobile devices but it will also force the company to introduce advanced devices and applications at relatively affordable cost. However, in order for MTC to roll out this technology and to be amongst the first in the world, there is a need for MTC to build some more base stations than it currently has and that clear guidelines from the authorities should be in place to smoothen this process. He also stressed the need for fibre to carry the bandwidth for which MTC will need the local authorities' support and cooperation.

"We are naturally excited by these developments which I'm sure will catapult Namibia into being one of the leading countries as far as ICT innovations are concerned. We are making the promise confidently that as a telecommunications service provider we will continue to deliver on our customer expectations through innovative and affordable services."

In his keynote address, The Right Honourable Prime Minister Nahas Angula congratulated Mr. Zeinal Bava, CEO of Portugal Telecom, and Portugal Telecom for the recent award by the Council of Europe in the category of Fibre to the Home FTTH and stressed that this success be cascaded to MTC for the benefit of Namibians. The Prime Minister expressed his joy with the capabilities of the 4G technology especially the fact that it will also benefit citizens in rural areas. He appealed to all stakeholders in the ICT space to assist MTC in building more base stations and fibre in order to realize Namibia's dream to become one of the first countries in the world to introduce 4G

Mr. Baiva, CEO of Portugal Telecom, in his remarks expressed Portugal Telecom's long term commitment and partnership to MTC and vowed to continue to bring world class technologies to Namibia through their long term partnership with MTC

/ends.....

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. The Company's 3G HSDPA+ Network allows for a download speed of up to 7.2 Mbps in Namibia's major towns. 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 1.5 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.

EDITORIAL CONTACT:

Tim Ekandjo
Chief Human Capital & Corporate Affairs Officer
tekandjo@mtc.com.na
061-2802000