



MTC EXPRESSES READINESS TO ROLL OUT 4G TECHNOLOGY

WINDHOEK, 01 FEBRUARY 2012 – Mobile telecommunications Ltd, MTC, says it is ready to roll out fourth generation (4G) technology in Namibia after launching the second successful trial within a space of one year.

However, the roll out of the technology, which MTC believes will make Namibia a leader in 4G, is subject to obtaining the necessary authorizations from the relevant authorities.

The new technology will, through an optimization of radio spectrum, allow for 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 second 4G trial on Wednesday night, conducted in front of an audience comprising Prime Minister Nahas Angula, ICT Minister Joel Kaapanda and other government officials as well as business executives, 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.

Significantly, once the 4G is officially commissioned, MTC is of the view that it will make Namibia the leader of deploying superior technology in the region.

Currently, a total of 49 mobile operators in 29 countries across the globe have commercially launched 4G but none of these countries are in Africa, thus making Namibia amongst the first to potentially launch on the continent.

MTC's Managing Director, Geraldus said at the presentation that his company is ready to launch provided that the company has permission from the authorities.

However, Geraldus said, MTC can only move forward with the process once the Communications Regulatory Authority of Namibia (CRAN) has authorised the frequencies and after the City of Windhoek has authorised fibre to be built in Windhoek. He also observed that for 4G to serve its purpose optimally, more base stations would have to be built in Windhoek. The entire exercise will cost MTC N\$150 million over a period of 12 months.

Geraldus 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 enable MTC to introduce advanced devices and applications at relatively affordable cost. However, in order for MTC to roll out this technology there is a need to build more base stations and to acquire spectrum frequencies from the Communications Regulatory Authority of Namibia (CRAN).

“Our excitement about 4G has no bounds as it will make Namibia a leading telecommunications nation on the continent. We are making good on our promise to serve the country and its people with the best telecommunications services and the implementation of 4G is in our view one major leap into that direction.”

The foundation for 4G was laid three 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 West African Cable System (WACS) in which it has invested N\$100 million, as well as the fibre backbones countrywide of another investment of N\$100 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, Geraldès said MTC is positioning itself to meet increased demand for bandwidth from all quarters.

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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.

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 1.6 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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