


Satellite Access in Africa

Connectivity via integrated Networks

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New Research on Satellite Access...

- ◆ **I**nternational **D**evelopment **R**esearch **C**entre (Canada) funded pan-African study
- ◆ Supporting **C**atalysing **A**ccess to **I**CTs in **A**frica, the CATIA programme of Department for International Development (DfID) of the U.K. government
- ◆ GVF-led research team
- ◆ Draws on ITU-D Question 17/1 '*Satellite Regulation in Developing Countries*'
- ◆ Also draws on GVF '*Satellite Policy & Regulatory Guideline*'
- ◆ And World Bank/DeTeCon/African Virtual University report '*Low Cost VSAT Technologies & Licensing Regimes*'
- ◆ Other multi-organisational input



Telecommunication Policy Reform



- ◆ 7 years ago: Not one Administration had liberalised the satcomms market – few services, prohibitively expensive
- ◆ Now: More than 34 African Administrations have begun to liberalise
- ◆ One of the highest regional growth rates for satellite services provision
- ◆ Drivers are:
 - **Public policy objectives:** telemedicine, distance learning, disaster recovery, business communications
 - **Rural telephony**
- ◆ BUT, high license fees, denial of voice services, lack of regulatory transparency and cross-border harmonisation

African Satellite Regulation Today



- ◆ **National Experiences in Satellite Regulation and Policy**
- ◆ **Nigeria Case Study**
- ◆ **Algeria Case Study**
- ◆ **Tanzania Case Study**
- ◆ **3 Country Comparative Analysis**

Implications of 3 Country Comparative Analysis

- ◆ 3 countries on different points of the ICT development curve
- ◆ Largely attributable to effectiveness of each country's policies and regulations
- ◆ Ranking of telecommunications development = (1) Nigeria, (2) Tanzania, (3) Algeria
- ◆ Nigeria's success attributable to how much further it has progressed in liberalising and deregulating its market. Underlying reason for Nigeria's progress is the effectiveness of the national regulator
- ◆ But, all in contrast to African countries where duopolies and monopolies are still in place

Satellite Regulatory Guidelines for Africa I

- ◆ **Optimising the Regulatory Framework**
- ◆ **Strategic Liberalisation of VSAT sector**
- ◆ **Universal Access**
- ◆ **Creating Transparency**
- ◆ **Streamlining Licensing**
- ◆ **Licensing Fees**

Satellite Regulatory Guidelines for Africa II

- ◆ **Addressing Commercial/Local Presence**
- ◆ **Technology Neutrality and Convergence**
- ◆ **Managing Spectrum**
- ◆ **Optimising Equipment Certification**
- ◆ **Achieving Content Neutrality**
- ◆ **Enforcing Compliance**

Optimising the Regulatory Framework

- ◆ **A Ministry with real authority and a regulator with nascent or contested authority complicates markets**
- ◆ **Therefore, the objective is: a separate and autonomous regulator**
- ◆ **Government responsible for policy**
- ◆ **TRA responsible for implementation: no political or operational pressures**

Toward National and Regional Strategies in the African Context

- ◆ **Regional Trade, Regional Economy, Regional Policy**
- ◆ **TRASA – Southern Africa
14 Administrations, One Region**
- ◆ **WATRA – the West African 'Hub'**
- ◆ **EARPTO: the Regional Licensing Opportunity**

CATIA Catalysing Access to ICTs in Africa

- ◆ **Supporting Development of Satellite Regulation in Africa by...**
- ◆ **Supporting local stakeholders as the main drivers of positive reform from within**
- ◆ **Supporting an African One-Stop-Shop on licensing requirements**
- ◆ **Implementation of blanket licensing and improved type approvals for low-cost VSAT terminals for Internet access**
- ◆ **MoU with TRASA, WATRA and EARPTO**

PROGRESS TO DATE



- ◆ **TRASA:**
 - Policy on Satellite and Wireless has been completed. Now requires to be accepted and implemented by each SADC country. Note Namibia has recently deregulated VSAT service provision.
- ◆ **WATRA:**
 - Report by the consultants tabled and accepted with some further work outstanding. Drafting committee established for WATRA's policy guideline document.
- ◆ **EARPTO:**
 - Some delay now due to regulatory issues in Kenya.

Thank You...



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