

AFRICAN WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS YEARBOOK 2022



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Chris Wood,
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This year, WIOCC has continued to extend its network which comprises high-capacity pan-African terrestrial infrastructure integrated with strategic investments in major international subsea systems serving Africa. This network has established itself as Africa's digital backbone; with open infrastructure that supports delivery of reliable, fully scalable national and international connectivity to cloud operators, content providers, telcos, and internet service providers (ISPs). Our most recent investment has secured full fibre pairs on the new Equiano and 2Africa high-capacity subsea cable systems, each of which will add more than 100Tbps of capacity. As of November 2022, the cables are in deployment around Africa's coastline and scheduled to be operational by end-2022 (Equiano) and by end-2023/4 (2Africa).

WIOCC was chosen as a landing partner for both open access cable systems. Through WIOCC Group company Open Access Data Centres (OADC), it is hosting landing stations within carrier-neutral, open access data centres in Nigeria (with the Equiano cable landing directly into OADC Lagos) and South Africa (the 2Africa cable is scheduled to land directly into OADC Durban in January 2023, and WIOCC's fibre pair on the Equiano cable is being extended into OADC Rondebosch in Cape Town from the landing point in Melkbosstrand, to the north of the city).

Looking ahead: Demand for digital connectivity will continue to rise, driven by further business migration of operations into the cloud and consumers using more of the ever-increasing number of connectivity-driven applications, products, and services. Our fibre pair ownership

We are increasingly focused on implementing a unique core-to-edge data centre proposition for Africa, together with what we are calling 'WIOCC 2.0': delivery of the converged open digital infrastructure demanded by our clients and needed to expedite the digital transformation of the continent.

We are seeing an opportunity not only to meet carriers, cloud operators and content providers' increased demands for reliable, high-speed international connectivity, and single-sourcing these together with high quality colocation capabilities, but through OADC's transformational core-to-edge data centre proposition to also enable in-country broadband, mobile operators, ISPs, the cloud and content community, enterprises, and government departments to:

- Store, manage and process their data locally in open access DCs that provide security, power backup, field services, roof access (to site antennae) and connectivity, all on an OpEx basis
- Cost-effectively extend their network reach
- Migrate content closer to the point of consumption at the network edge
- Process large data sets closer to their point of origin, saving on transmission costs
- Take advantage of our locally-hosted disaster recovery capabilities.

We are seeking opportunities to secure operating licences in new markets. We are also exploring other areas of business, with announcements in this area to be made early in 2023. ■

in 2Africa and Equiano, together with our existing infrastructure and the expansion of our terrestrial networks in Malawi, Nigeria, South Africa, and Zambia, will create many opportunities for us to continue to meet our clients' connectivity needs across Africa.