

South Africa Telecoms, Mobile and Broadband Market 2017 Industry – Size, Trends, Opportunities, Growth- Analysis to 2021

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PUNE, INDIA, November 15, 2017
/EINPresswire.com/ --

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South Africa’s telecom regulator conducts mobile data pricing studySouth Africa’s telecom sector boasts one of the most advanced infrastructures on the continent. There is now considerable investment from Telkom, Liquid Telecom South Africa, Broadband InfraCo and municipal providers. Nevertheless, the poor historic availability and level of service of fixed-line networks encouraged the growth of the mobile sector for both voice and data services and this segment commands most investment and effort among telcos. Under a converging regulatory regime hundreds of alternative service providers have been able to enter the market to offer a range of services.

Other key regulatory matters aimed at shaping the market include the licensing of LTE spectrum. This was anticipated in late 2016 but in February the auction of spectrum in several bands was put on hold indefinitely. This has caused some difficulties for mobile network operators, which are desperately short of spectrum and which have had to rely on spectrum refarming and other measures to increase network capacity.

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Key developments:

Neotel rebranded as Liquid Telecom South Africa;
Orange Group opens two PoPs in Cape Town and Johannesburg, providing additional wholesale



internet connectivity;
Regulator to conduct mobile data pricing study, ready for March 2018;
Comsol announces 5G fixed-wireless trials using spectrum in the 28MHz band;
MTN trials LTE-LAA network providing data at over 400Mb/s;
Regulator pushes back LTE spectrum auction until further notice;
Vodacom and MTN trial LTE-Unlicensed services;
Regulator extends MTRs until September 2018;
Telkom FttC infrastructure passing close to two million premises;
MTN increases investment in fibre infrastructure by 170% in H1 2017;
Department of Telecommunications allocates ZAR1.4 billion to pursue broadband initiatives;
Report update includes the regulator's March 2017 report on the ICT sector, operator data to March 2017. Companies mentioned in this report:
Telkom, Liquid Telecom South Africa (Neotel), Vodacom, MTN, Cell C, Virgin Mobile, Broadband InfraCo, Transtel, Eskom, SEACOM, SITA, Sentech, Dark Fibre Africa (DFA), Internet Solutions, FibreCo, eFive, WASACE, Atlantic Internet Services, Business Connexion, Internet Solutions, Verizon Business, MWEB, Vox Telecom (DataPro), iBurst (Rain, WBS, Blue Label).

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