

PROJECT NEWS

Zimbabwe Telecomm Company in \$150m expansion Project

Reported by [Peter Banda](#) in Harare

12 March 2015 – Harare, Zimbabwe – Project Management Zimbabwe (PMZ) would like to share the news that **Liquid Telecommunications (Pvt) Ltd, a subsidiary of ECONET Wireless Global** is embarking on a US\$150 million project to further expand their fibre network in Africa.

The network currently spans over 18 000km and includes fibre rings around a multitude of towns and cities. Liquid Telecom Zimbabwe Managing Director **Mr Wellington Makamure** broke the news in a statement issued and published in a local daily newspaper on 12 March 2015 in Harare. Mr Makamure said such infrastructure development will continue as part of their pan-African programme.



“The new investment will be used to extend Liquid Telecoms fibre network into additional countries part of the company’s continuous expansion strategy. In Zimbabwe, the US\$150million project will cover the ongoing Fibre-to-the-Home builds in Harare, Bulawayo, Gweru, Mutare and recently Victoria Falls, which will provide homes and businesses with unlimited data packages and 100Mbps, the fastest broadband ever available in Africa,” he said.

Mr Makamure said Liquid Telecoms has an open access network policy where it works with other independent IAPs, ISPs and telcomms in the country.

“Our customers include other wholesale carriers, mobile network operators, ISPs, financial institutions and businesses of all sizes and homes. Apart from our retail arm ZOL (Zimbabwe Online), we also operate retail businesses in Kenya, Rwanda and Uganda,” he said.

The group said it has spent more than five years building what is now called Africa’s largest independent cross-border fibre network which runs across 15 nations from Southern Africa to East and Central Africa covering Africa’s fast-growing economies where no fixed network has existed before and connecting to all the undersea cables.

Telecommunications and internet data services represent one of the fastest growth sectors in African economies largely as a result of a technology revolution that only became pronounced in the 1990s.

ZOL Zimbabwe experts to have a presence in more than 100 000 homes through the Fibre-to-the-Home programme by the end of this year. ZOL has so far covered more

than 30 000 more in the next few months. By the end of the year, the company targets more households to be on its fibre optic internet.

Another Zimbabwe competitor to Liquid Telecomm, Powertel, has also registered its presence in the region by becoming the first company to have fibre connectivity via Botswana. Powertel plans to roll out a \$32 million fibre company optic backbone network project set to improve the country's connectivity. The project is expected to start this year and requires the installation of around 1850km of cable with surveys already been completed.

Powertel has upgraded its network capacity from STM16 to STM64 and also increased distribution through ZETDC and third party channels. Powertel has optimised base stations delivery high-speed broadband and has also added more back-up access to ensure reliable internet connectivity to customers.



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Source: Project Management Zimbabwe