



Airtel Africa plc

("Airtel Africa", or the "Company")

Airtel Africa and ASN collaborate to light 2Africa

Africa, 12 June 2024: Airtel Telesonic, the wholesale arm of Airtel Africa, a leading provider of telecommunications, with a presence in 14 countries in Africa, is delighted to announce the successful activation of the 2Africa submarine cable system, marking a significant milestone in enhancing connectivity across the African continent.

The initial phase of activation connects Kenya, Tanzania, and South Africa, heralding a new era of high-speed, reliable internet access. The 2Africa cable system is one of the largest subsea projects globally, designed to interconnect Africa, Europe, and Asia. This activation is part of a broader initiative to deliver faster and more resilient internet services, supporting the digital transformation across Africa.

Airtel Telesonic achieved this milestone with their partnership with Alcatel Submarine Networks, which is an industry leader in optical submarine networks deployed worldwide, with the ability to offer turn-key solutions utilising the latest technology, both in subsea infrastructure and transmission capacity.

ASN (Alcatel Submarine Networks) and Airtel showcase their collaborative efforts in this deployment, strengthening ASN's renowned track record for efficiently meeting deployment schedules, with ASN implementing its latest cutting-edge SLTE platform (PSI-SUB) on the 2Africa subsea cable network.

ASN PSI-SUB is an innovative platform that boasts a grid less, modular, and colorless architecture, ready to seamlessly accommodate all next-generation transponders in a future-proof platform.

Speaking on the partnership, **Airtel Telesonic's CEO, PD Sarma**, expressed his enthusiasm about this achievement: "The activation of the 2Africa submarine cable is a monumental step in our mission to bridge the digital divide in Africa. Airtel is proud to launch the first phase of 2Africa cable system powered by the latest SLTE equipment from our partner. This project not only underscores our commitment to investing in advanced infrastructure but also our dedication to empowering communities with the tools they need to thrive in the digital age. This is a significant milestone underscoring the power of collaboration and innovation to bring the world's longest Submarine cable system to Africa."

Speaking on the partnership, **ASN's Chief Sales & Marketing Officer, Paul Gabla**, said "ASN is very pleased to support Airtel with our cutting-edge SLTE equipment on the 2Africa cable system. This partnership underscores our dedication to continuing the fast delivery of world-class SLTE technological solutions. This important milestone highlights the strength of collaboration and innovation in bringing advanced connectivity solutions to Africa through our partnership with Airtel".

The 2Africa submarine cable is set to transform the digital landscape in Africa, providing unprecedented opportunities for connectivity and growth. As Airtel Africa continues to expand its network, the company remains committed to delivering innovative solutions that meet the evolving needs of its customers.

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About Airtel Africa

Airtel Africa is a leading provider of telecommunications and mobile money services, with a presence in 14 countries in Africa, primarily in East Africa and Central and West Africa.

Airtel Africa offers an integrated suite of telecommunications solutions to its subscribers, including mobile voice and data services as well as mobile money services both nationally and internationally.

The Group aims to continue providing a simple and intuitive customer experience through streamlined customer journeys.

www.airtel.africa

About Airtel Telesonic

Airtel Telesonic is the wholesale division of Airtel Africa, specialising in providing high-capacity network solutions and infrastructure services across the continent. With a focus on innovation and customer satisfaction, Airtel Telesonic aims to deliver cutting-edge technology that supports the digital aspirations of businesses and communities in Africa.

About Network International

Network International is the Middle East and Africa's largest and leading digital payments company. Our purpose is to help businesses and economies grow by simplifying payments and commerce. We operate in 50+ countries serving governments, banks, fintech, merchants and public sector companies. We have 2,000+ employees based in our markets serving over 200 financial institutions and 120,000+ merchants.

About Alcatel Submarine Networks

Alcatel Submarine Networks, part of Nokia, leads the industry in terms of transmission capacity and installed base with more than 800,000 km of optical submarine systems deployed worldwide, enough to circumnavigate the globe 17 times. From traditional telecom applications to content and "over the top" service provider infrastructures, as well as to offshore oil and gas applications, ASN provides all elements of turnkey global undersea transmission systems, tailored to individual customer's needs. An extensive services portfolio completes its comprehensive offering for the submarine business, including project management, installation, and commissioning, along with marine and maintenance operations performed by ASN's wholly owned fleet of cable ships.

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