



Telecom Egypt and Liquid Telecom announce MoU signing to enable completion of the first fiber network from Cape to Cairo

Abuja, July 13, 2018: Leading pan-African telecoms group, Liquid Telecom, and Telecom Egypt, Egypt's first integrated telecom operator, announced today at the 2018 Annual Meetings of the African Export-Import Bank (Afreximbank) the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) that will enable Liquid Telecom to shortly complete Africa's terrestrial fiber network stretching all the way from Cape Town, South Africa, to Cairo, Egypt.

Under the MoU, Liquid Telecom will link its network from Sudan into Telecom Egypt's network via a new cross border interconnection – bringing together a 60,000km network that runs from Cape Town, through all the Southern, Central, and Eastern African countries, and has now reached the border between Sudan and Egypt. The Cape to Cairo network - often referred to as "the One Africa" broadband network - has been in the making for over ten years and serves some of the largest global companies with some of the fastest network speeds on the continent.

Commenting on today's announcement, Ahmed El Beheiry, Telecom Egypt's Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer, said:

"This MoU is a great step in our strategy to penetrate the African market and avail Telecom Egypt's most advanced technology and global infrastructure services to customers across Africa.

We look forward to working alongside Liquid Telecom to develop new network services and products that will help stimulate intra-regional trade".

Strive Masiyiwa, Founder and Executive Chairman of Ecomet, said:

"Completing our vision of building a single network running on land, all the way from Cape to Cairo is a historic moment for the company and for a more connected Africa. This network not only represents a remarkable engineering achievement that has overcome some of the most challenging distances and terrains on the continent, but it is also supporting the rise of Africa's digital economies." Mr Masiyiwa also observed that: "Wherever the One Africa network has been completed we have seen dramatic increase of data traffic between nations connected to it. We expect to see a lot of traffic between Egypt and the rest of Africa. Where there is improved communications, improved trade follows as well. We need to see more trade between African countries."



As part of the strategic partnership, Liquid Telecom and Telecom Egypt will share network infrastructure and explore further areas of collaboration, including joint network services, a peering arrangement and a voice interconnection agreement.

Telecom Egypt, which has served Egyptian customers for over 160 years, will offer Liquid Telecom unrivalled reach through interconnection services, while Telecom Egypt will benefit from access to Liquid Telecom's pan-African fiber network.

The 2018 Annual Meetings of the African Export-Import Bank (Afreximbank), which is the foremost pan-African multilateral financial institution devoted to financing and promoting intra- and extra-African trade, is being held this week from 11 to 14 July in Abuja, Nigeria. It brings together banking industry professionals, trade and trade finance practitioners and other parties involved in economic development from across Africa and beyond.

Dr. Benedict Oramah, President of Afreximbank, said:

“The roll-out of infrastructure, particularly high-speed networks, is crucial for stimulating intra-regional trade. The Cape to Cairo network sets a new standard for Africa and will open-up new trade opportunities across the region. Our congratulations to Telecom Egypt and Liquid Telecom for reaching an agreement to complete the Cape to Cairo network.”

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About Liquid Telecom

www.liquidtelecom.com

Liquid Telecom is a leading communications services and solutions provider across 13 countries in Eastern, Central and Southern Africa that serves carrier, enterprise and retail customers with high-speed, reliable connectivity and digital services.

It has built Africa's largest independent fiber network, spanning over 50,000km, and operates state-of-the-art data centers in Johannesburg, Cape Town and Nairobi, with a combined 6,800 square meters of rack space.

This is in addition to leading cloud-based services, such as Microsoft Office365 and Microsoft Azure, and innovative digital content provision, including Netflix, NBA, TED and Kwese Play. Through this combined offering, Liquid Telecom is enhancing customers' experience on their digital journey.

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About Telecom Egypt

Telecom Egypt is the first total telecom operator in Egypt providing all telecom services to its customers including fixed and mobile voice and data services. Telecom Egypt has a long history serving Egyptian customers for over 160 years maintaining a leadership position in the Egyptian telecom market by offering its enterprise and consumer customers the most advanced technology, reliable infrastructure solutions and the widest network of submarine cables. Aside from its mobile operation "WE", the company owns a 45% stake in Vodafone Egypt. Telecom Egypt's shares and GDRs (Ticker: ETEL.CA; TEEG.LN) are traded on The Egyptian Exchange and the London Stock Exchange. Please refer to Telecom Egypt's full financial disclosure on ir.te.eg

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