
ERICSSON AND ECONET WIRELESS ZIMBABWE SIGN FIVE-YEAR DEAL TO ENABLE FASTER, MORE RELIABLE CONNECTIVITY

- Ericsson has been selected by Econet Wireless Zimbabwe as the sole supplier for its Core network as well as existing RAN in the Harare region
- Econet Wireless Zimbabwe's network to be upgraded to the latest systems and technologies
- This collaboration will allow Econet's customers faster and more reliable mobile services and reduce time-to-market for new attractive services

Ericsson (NASDAQ:ERIC) today announced that it has been selected as the sole supplier by Zimbabwe's largest provider of telecommunications services, Econet Wireless Zimbabwe, for the company's Core network upgrade program. The deal will see the companies working together to simplify and upgrade the existing 2G/3G/4G/LTE networks, future proofing it for the rapid mobile expansion in the country.

Bernard Fernandes, Group CTO of Econet says: "We have chosen our trusted long-term partner Ericsson to accompany us on this journey and look forward to the ability to launch new products and quality services to our customers."

Building on the companies' existing long-term partnership, the new scope will rationalize and upgrade the Core network as well as introduce the latest Ericsson network architecture.

The agreement includes a complete multi-access Evolved Packet Core with Evolved Packet Gateway on SSR 8020, SGSN-MME and Service-Aware Policy Controller as well as Mobile Switching Center and Media Gateway. It also includes close integration between policy and charging functions, which will enable Econet to reduce time-to-market for new offerings and increased personalization capabilities. In the Harare area, which currently carries more than half of all traffic on the network, the project will also upgrade the radio access network (RAN) to include Ericsson's multi-standard RBS 6000 family of base stations for macro and small cell networks.

Pieter Goosen, Country Manager for Ericsson Zimbabwe, says: "Econet is the market leader in Zimbabwe and this project will give them one of the most advanced Core

networks on the continent, providing them far more capacity to manage and scale their network.”

Econet Wireless (Pvt) Ltd is a provider of telecommunication services with 9.2 million registered subscribers. The company offers solutions in mobile wireless, internet access and charging solutions as well as overlay services such as Ecofarmer, Ecocash and HPS. Econet launched its network in 1998, and has grown to be the largest provider of telecommunications and payment solutions in Zimbabwe.

NOTES TO EDITORS

Download high-resolution photos and broadcast-quality video at www.ericsson.com/press

Ericsson is the driving force behind the Networked Society – a world leader in communications technology and services. Our long-term relationships with every major telecom operator in the world allow people, businesses and societies to fulfill their potential and create a more sustainable future.

Our services, software and infrastructure – especially in mobility, broadband and the cloud – are enabling the telecom industry and other sectors to do better business, increase efficiency, improve the user experience and capture new opportunities.

With more than 110,000 professionals and customers in 180 countries, we combine global scale with technology and services leadership. We support networks that connect more than 2.5 billion subscribers. Forty percent of the world’s mobile traffic is carried over Ericsson networks. And our investments in research and development ensure that our solutions – and our customers – stay in front.

Founded in 1876, Ericsson has its headquarters in Stockholm, Sweden. Net sales in 2013 were SEK 227.4 billion (USD 34.9 billion). Ericsson is listed on NASDAQ OMX stock exchange in Stockholm and the NASDAQ in New York.

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