

Mozambique seeks new cell phone provider

MAPUTO: Mozambique began the search for a new cell phone provider on Thursday, 16 April 2009 paving the way for a third mobile communications company to enter the market, state media reported.

Regulators were meeting Thursday in Maputo to begin the process of launching a tender for the country's third mobile operating licence, said *Notícias* newspaper.

Mozambique gained its first cell phone provider in 1997 with the creation of state-owned mCel. South Africa-based Vodacom began operating in Mozambique in 2003 after winning a licence tender with a \$15-million bid.

Cellular giant Vodafone has expressed interest in buying the third Mozambique licence.

According to data from the International Telecommunication Union, about 15% of Mozambicans currently have cell phones, well below the average for sub-Saharan Africa.

Source: AFP

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