

Ericsson to build fiber-optic network in Nigeria

Ericsson has signed a contract with Nigerian telecom company 21st Century Technologies to supply, build and systems integrate a nationwide residential fiber-optic broadband network. The contract includes the latest GPON Fiber-To-The-Home (FTTH) technology and will enable advanced high-speed broadband services.

The project represents a major breakthrough in the West African region, a market largely dominated by mobile communications. The Fiber-To-The-Home network will provide broadband connectivity and support services such as IPTV, high-speed internet access, and voice-over-IP. Deployment to the first 10,000 homes will start in January, 2009.

Wale Ajisebutu, managing director of 21st Century Technologies, says: "We are delighted to work with Ericsson to deploy and integrate one of the world's most sophisticated network architectures for fiber optic. With the combination of Ericsson's GPON (Gigabit-capable Passive Optical Network) and IMS (IP Multimedia Subsystem) technology, we can deliver an enriched multimedia experience to our customers."

Jan Embro, head of sub-Saharan Africa at Ericsson, says: "This contract reflects Ericsson's strong position in Nigeria, builds on our partnership with 21st Century Technologies and highlights our capabilities in multimedia services. It is the first project of its kind in the West African region and will be the forerunner of related services not only in the region, but in Africa as a whole."

Under the agreement Ericsson will provide an end-to-end Deep-Fiber Access network with EDA 1500 for GPON access and fiber cables, including Ribbonet and Micronet air-blown fiber systems. The contract also includes Redback SmartEdge 1200 routers and Ericsson's IMS solution for the core network, enabling seamless access to a wide range of multimedia services. Ericsson will also be responsible for network design, deployment and systems integration services.