

AFRICAN WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS YEARBOOK 2022



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Robert Mullins,
CEO, Raxio

2022 has been a busy year for us. Our facility UG1 in Uganda celebrated its first anniversary since being commissioned having provided a much-needed environment to improve continuity and developing a hub that allows businesses to interconnect with each other. We also saw significant progress with construction in our second facility ET1 in Ethiopia, set to be commissioned in the first half of 2023.

We also announced our entrance into Tanzania, the second largest telecoms market in East Africa, with a growing demand for content and data processing which has become an important centerpiece of our growing portfolio. It reinforces our commitment to our strategy to deliver the vital digital infrastructure needed on the African continent and is set to be commissioned in 2024.

We also broke ground on the construction of **“Access to stable, mission critical environments in these countries is more important now than ever before and we are looking forward to supporting their digital growth with our internal teams, alongside experienced local and regional technical partners specialised in design, engineering, and construction.”**

facilities in Mozambique, the DRC and Ivory Coast, taking our presence in Africa to six countries.

As you can probably tell, we have made notable progress against our strategic goals in 2022, driving growth across our markets and expanding into new territories. To support this rapid expansion, we have hired teams of local professionals to manage our data centre facilities across the business. This currently consists of a team of 47 employees, based across seven countries, representing 13 different nationalities, reflecting our Africa-wide focus.

The overarching challenge we had to address was the ongoing issue of COVID-19. A relatable and shared unprecedented pressure amongst our peers, which saw a knock on effect on well-oiled global supply chains, due to successive lock downs and restrictions.

The pandemic accelerated the technology industry to make a rapid shift to digital solutions, resulting in an overwhelming demand for electrical and mechanical equipment, placing an ever-bigger strain on the supply chain, in order for businesses to get the necessary materials in order to meet deadlines and what could be achieved.

However, we have seen digital connectivity in the region grow and the demand for services increase. The positive take aways from this has been the drive to innovate around environmental and sustainable solutions in our designs. We are in the position to be able to offer industry leading technology solutions that have the ability to accommodate the highest power density racks whilst operating at the lowest power usage effectiveness ratio (PUE) in the region.

The locations of our data centres provide ideal operating environments, prime access to connectivity and power infrastructure, and the opportunity to supply our sites largely from renewable energy sources, allowing us to further our ambitious ESG goals.

Access to stable, mission critical environments in these countries is more important now than ever before and we are looking forward to supporting their digital growth with our internal teams, alongside experienced local and regional technical partners specialised in design, engineering, and construction.

These new data centres will not only provide a critical and missing part of these countries' digital infrastructure, but will also facilitate internet traffic amongst content providers locally and internationally, making the internet experience faster, more resilient, and more affordable for all digital users.

Mobile network operators, ISPs and carriers will be able to interconnect to each other and their customers, reducing the cost of access to content across the country at a time when new submarine cables will also be providing Mozambique with enhanced international connectivity.

We have seen a trend of digital transformation in this region, as consumption of digital content, most likely resulting from COVID-19, and the economy being largely driven by the services

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sector and a thriving middle-class.

With new connectivity solutions arriving and the continued evolution of the digital ecosystem in the region, we will continue to build facilities across a wider geographic footprint to meet the demand from SMEs to hyperscale content delivery networks. ■

Looking ahead: In 2023 we plan to continue to expand digital connectivity across Africa, building more facilities in the markets in which we already have a presence, alongside new markets. We will also be developing and building hubs that develop the digital ecosystem which will bring together connectivity providers, financial services providers, mobile network operators, ISPs and CDNs.

As Africa's digital landscape transforms as customers start to adopt digital services, there will be a need for the establishment and modernization of infrastructure to grow rapidly. The arrival of new submarine and terrestrial networks mean that connectivity is also undergoing a transformation, driving demand, enabling mobile network

operators, ISPs, and carriers to interconnect with each other and their customers.

As consumption of data and local content in both the consumer and enterprise segments will increase significantly, the necessary digital infrastructure is needed to be delivered to support this. These new data centres will not only provide a critical and missing part of these countries' digital infrastructure, but it will also facilitate internet traffic amongst content providers locally and internationally, making the internet experience faster, more resilient, and more affordable for all digital users. Resulting in the creation of new jobs, opportunities to do business and make the world a much smaller place.