

**November 23, 2009**

### **STARCOMMS RAKES IN 3 AWARDS AT NIITA 2009**

Starcomms Plc confirmed its industry supremacy at the weekend at the 8<sup>th</sup> Nigerian Information Technology and Telecom Awards (NIITA) as the company was honored with the '**Best CDMA Operator of the year 2009**' among other awards. At the award ceremony, which gathered every who-is-who in the Information and Communication Technology industry, Starcomms broadband internet services product & services '**iZAP**' also won for the second time NIITA's '**Best Internet Product of the year 2009**', while the company's amiable managing director / CEO, Maher Qubain was pronounced the '**Nigerian Telecom CEO of the year 2009**'.

According to the organizers of the event, Starcomms Plc., the only truly triple-play CDMA network was pronounced the Best CDMA operator because of the strong active subscriber base, pioneering heritage of bringing innovative products & services, the way the company leads the pack in delivering quality brands and services to its customers all over the country and Starcomms continues to play the leadership role in building a dynamic and globally competitive ICT business in Nigeria.

Starcomms broadband brand 'iZAP' which is the Best internet product of 2009 an award it clinched in 2008, was launched as a superfast broadband internet service that offers subscribers boundless possibilities on its network. Starcomms introduced the Third Generation (3G) technology EVDO based mobile broadband internet services for the 1<sup>st</sup> time in entire West Africa, based on the realization that the Nigerian subscriber has become quite sophisticated and deserved to be provided world class services using the best technology.

Since then Starcomms has not only brought world class internet access devices to its subscribers but has also saluted the demand of teaming subscribers on its most trusted broadband services in the industry and to meet up their expectation extended the broadband services to Ibadan, Calabar, Warri & Benin in addition to Lagos, PH & Abuja to complement the 1x data service that is present in most of the cities under Starcomms network coverage.

Maher Qubain was praised at NIITA as a courageous Nigerian Telecom Chief Executive Officer of the year, who played a pivotal role in the company's successful listing on the Nigerian Stock Exchange and continues to successfully balance subscriber growth and profitability, improving the balance sheets with strong cash positions and maximize returns for the shareholders whilst continuing to strengthened the brand and offer new innovations to the marketplace.

Responding to the awards, the Starcomms CEO was full of appreciation to industry watchers for singling Starcomms out for the highest number of honors at this year's ceremony. "We are very grateful that our efforts in the industry are being noticed by independent observers. Starcomms will not relent in deploying the best technology available anywhere in the world for the satisfaction of our subscribers. These awards can only fire us up to do more for the industry and for our customers," Qubain said