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### Starcomms Became the First 1900mhz CDMA Operator OMH Compliant Network in Africa

Starcomms leading telecommunications solution provider in Nigeria and only true triple player in the country proudly announced recently that it has received recognition for meeting the requirements of the CDG (CDMA development group's) OMH (open market handsets) initiative, thus becoming the 1<sup>st</sup> 1900 MHZ CDMA Operator in Africa and 6<sup>th</sup> CDMA Operator in the world to do so. Starcomms in cooperation with Qualcomm Inc. has completed the applicable network testing to declare its network OMH-Compliant.

The OMH initiative is a strategic effort to benefit the CDMA Ecosystem by enabling open distribution of handsets across networks and regions by expanding Removable User Identity Module (R-UIM) card capabilities to support full set of competitive features and standardizing a uniform handset and network implementation for each feature. The R-UIM enabled OMH feature set includes voice services and device operation, Short Message Service (SMS), 3G Packet Data, MMS, WAP, JAVA, Binary Runtime Environment for Wireless (BREW), high rate packet data (1x and EV-DO) and Location Based Services.

The initiative opens distribution channels and increases CDMA device variety within the CDMA ecosystem. The CDG aims to do so by requiring that all operators and subscribers specific provisioning be moved from the device (handsets) onto the removable user identity module (R-UIM) cards. By so doing subscribers can purchase any OMH handsets from the open market and subsequently approach any network of their choice to purchase R-UIM cards for use with the phones purchased in the open market. This is apposite to what is currently obtainable where CDMA handsets are locked to a particular networks and do not lend themselves to network interoperability

OMH handsets, already available in Asian leading CDMA markets like India, Indonesia, Thailand, Bangladesh and are expected to be in Nigeria in the first half of 2010. With this development, Starcomms would be able to increase mobile device variety for its subscriber base, reduce costs associated with device, lower handset inventory costs and reduce testing cost .whilst the handset would become a generic device that can be sold on the 'open market' and used in multiple operator networks.

Commenting on the certification, chief executive officer, Starcomms Plc, Mr. Maher Qubain, says "OMH provides opportunity for CDMA handset variety as a platform for vendors to distribute handsets across many different markets. At Starcomms we have always focused on providing the best products to our subscriber having regard to their needs & choices. The OMH initiative is going to definitely optimize CDMA device/ terminal distribution and model availability, making it easier for new world class handset models to make their way into the Nigerian market faster."

The CDMA development group (CDG), founded in December 1993, is an international consortium of companies who have joined together to lead the adoption and evolution of 3g CDMA wireless systems around the world. The CDG is comprised of CDMA service providers and manufacturers, application developers and content providers. By working together, the members help to ensure interoperability among systems, while expediting the availability of 3G CDMA technologies to consumers.

Being member of the CDG which is what the certificate also connotes, means that Starcomms, alongside other members will work to foster collaboration and the development of consensus among carriers on critical issues to provide direction and leadership for the industry and create global economies of scale to make CDMA the preferred choice of operators and end users.

Starcomms plc, was last year crowned the best CDMA operator by Nigerian information technology and telecom awards (NIITA) among other awards.