

REGULATOR GRANTS STARCOMMS NEW MOBILE SERIES - 07029

STARCOMMS TAKES CDMA IN NIGERIA TO NEXT LEVEL - Launches 07029 series

A little over a year since Starcomms, the 4th largest telecoms company in Nigeria, activated its mobile code numbers - 07028 –, the regulator of the telecommunications sector, the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) has granted the network a new serial code – 07029.

The development, it is believed, is an indication that due to huge demand for its lines, the first serial code has reached its maximum capacity, prompting the need for a new one.

From impeccable sources, the company, which commenced operations in 1990, has reached 1.5 million in its subscribers base, and is poised to strike the two million mark in the very near future.

Starcomms Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Maher Qubain, who confirmed the new milestone, said the company has been granted another platform with which to ensure that subscribers are not denied the opportunity of being hooked to the network and satisfying their hunger for world class products and services in any part of the country.

Qubain disclosed that since Starcomms introduced the 07028 series into the market in early February 2007, demand for its lines has been very encouraging, adding that with the company's expansion project well on course; demand is expected to surge even further.

The recent launches in Abeokuta, Ijebu Ode and Shagamu means that the network is now effectively available in 14 major Nigerian cities namely Lagos, Ibadan, Kano, Maiduguri, Port Harcourt, Onitsha, Aba, Asaba, Kaduna, Benin and Zaria while preparations are in progress to put more cities on air this year

The national unified license granted the company by the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC).in 2006, the Starcomms boss said, threw open a window of opportunities for the company to expand and grow.

Among other provisions, the unified license gave the company a wide range of telecommunications options including the operation of fixed wireless, fax, data, mobile telephony, long distance, national, international mobile and high speed internet services

To actualize this, the company subsequently made heavy investment in its expansion project with the aim of making its products and services available to subscribers in all parts of the country.

The new range of numbers (07029), it was reliably gathered, like the first will operate on the CDMA 2000 (Code Division Multiple Access) platform, and will enable subscribers enjoy the roaming mobility that mobile communications offers.

Some of its main features are superior voice clarity, flexibility and mobility, enabling subscribers to use their phones in different parts of the country, besides eliminating the challenge of inter-connectivity between GSM and CDMA technologies.

'We have planned for this for several years because we realized long ago that this day will come; we will match our pedigree in the business. We are excited to pull this through,' said Maher

With this development, Starcomms, the first CDMA network to reach the million mark subscription base, is set to replicate the feat it achieved with the deployment of its world-class mobile broadband internet access service, a CDMA 2000 1X EV-DO powered technology.

In 2002, the company re-tooled its systems and procedures to improve the capacity, quality and performance of its network to the CDMA 2000 1X RTT technology. On December 1, 2003, the company commenced operation in Kano followed by Maiduguri on the 15th of the same month, while the Port Harcourt office was commissioned in 2005. On August 1 2006, Starcomms became one of the first batches of operators to be licensed as a unified operator by the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC).

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