

## **2 MILLION BASE: STARCOMMS GETS GLOBAL ACCLAIM**

Nigeria's 4<sup>th</sup> largest telecommunication operator, reaching over two million subscribers in over twenty cities, scattered over several states of Nigeria, Starcomms Plc., has received warm accolades through a congratulatory message from the CDMA Development Group (CDG), the umbrella body of all CDMA operators in the world for the achievement of surpassing the 2 million subscriber base.

A statement released by the CDG from its base in California, USA signed by its Executive Director Perry LaForge said "Starcomms reaching two million subscribers in such a short amount of time is an extraordinary achievement. Starcomms' success is a testimony to CDMA2000's suitability for developing markets, where users previously underserved by communications technology now have access to the very best of mobile telephony, broadband Internet access and rich multimedia services provided by the Starcomms' Rev. A Network."

This came against the background that Starcomms' gross subscriber base in 2002 was below 2000 with presence in only Lagos. The leap from 2000 to 2 million in six years and a coverage of over 20 cities scattered all over the federation and increasing daily positions the company as one of the fastest growing telecommunications company in the whole of Africa.

In a response by the Chief Executive Officer of Starcomms, Maher Qubain, he noted that surpassing the 2 million subscriber base is a testimony of the commitment of the company to bringing the best of cost effective telecommunications services to as many people as possible in Nigeria.

He said: "It is not difficult for a sophisticated telecoms market like Nigeria to pick out the network that offers a superior network quality, providing the most advanced mobile, fixed wireless and broadband services with cost effective pricing. Our fast growing subscribers have wider access to the latest wireless technology and are quickly transforming their daily lives, enhancing their productivity and improving their economic status by using the vast selection of 3G services that we offer nationwide."

CDMA2000 —technology offered by Starcomms has given many Nigerians access to top-of-the-class voice services and broadband

access to the Internet, along with a broad range of value-added data services for a wide range of users in both urban areas and rural areas.

The CDMA Development Group (CDG) was founded in December 1993, as an international consortium of companies that came together to lead the adoption and evolution of 3G CDMA wireless systems around the world. It rallies world CDMA service providers and manufacturers, application developers and content providers to ensure interoperability among their various systems, while expediting the availability of 3G CDMA technology to consumers.

| CDG also has as goals the promotion of industry and public awareness about CDMA capabilities and developments through marketing and public relations activities and the fostering of collaboration and the development of consensus among carriers on critical issues.

The group, in addition, provides direction and leadership for the industry as well as defines the evolution path for current and next-generation CDMA systems among other things.

The group also serves as the worldwide resource for CDMA-related information while enabling global compatibility and interoperability among CDMA systems worldwide. Starcomms Plc. is one of the leading affiliates of CDG.