

**April 30, 2009**

PRESS RELEASE

**STARCOMMS STORMS IBADAN, CALABAR WITH SUPERFAST iZAP**

**\*As Maiduguri joins Starcomms Data**

In its quest to maintain the lead in the provision of data services on its network all over the country, Starcomms Plc, Nigeria's number one data providing network, is storming Ibadan and Calabar with its premium data facility, iZAP. iZAP is the award-winning super fast broadband data service from the company's stable which is already causing excitement in the two major Nigerian cities which had before now, been enjoying only Starcomms 1xCDMA service.

The company, a leader in the provision of triple-play services pioneered the 1xEV-DO-based mobile broadband deployment in Nigeria. It is offered as CDMA's response to the need for broadband services capable of delivering very high speeds. Starcomms first deployed EVDO services in Lagos and Port Harcourt, and later Abuja through the mobile data cards for laptop users and USB modems for other computers. The CDMA technology provides greater capacity for voice and data communications than other commercial mobile technologies, allowing more subscribers to connect always. Starcomms has since 2006 been availing its customers with superior data services through the use of cutting edge technology and innovative packages.

With iZAP in Ibadan and Calabar Starcomms' business-minded subscribers now have the opportunity to upload and download large data files and emails with attachments while "on-the-go" and instantly and securely access the Internet. Whenever existing iZAP users find themselves in these cities, they can now conveniently use their devices as if they had not travelled out of Lagos, Abuja or Port Harcourt where they operated from. Also, Starcomms data customers in Ibadan and Calabar who were not on iZAP can now upgrade to the super-fast device for premium services.

Apart from effectiveness of iZAP, the introduction of the package in the two cities will further empower Nigerians to become masters of their own destinies, with the diverse opportunities that the service presents for entrepreneurs, professionals, students, cyber-cafe operators as well as tertiary institution communities which the two cities can boast of.

The leadership of iZAP in data-provision category has been confirmed over and over again in the country, making it the preferred data option for internet users in the country. At the Nigeria Information Technology and Telecom Awards (NITTA) in 2008, iZAP clinched the Best Internet Product of the year, 2008. This came after the product was adjudged the best Telecomm Product of the same year at the Nigerian Telecomm Awards.

Maher Qubain, Chief executive Officer of Starcomms Plc, excited about the new opportunity the company is extending to Ibadan and Calabar said "We are always happy to provide telecommunications solution in areas around the country. We are proud to say that the extension of iZAP to Ibadan and Calabar is just the beginning of a fresh move by Starcomms to provide fast data service in more cities where the need for it is pressing. We recognise the fact that business takes our existing iZAP subscribers to major cities in the country. We therefore give them the opportunity to make use of their data devices for their various transactions. It is also important to us that we are bringing a super-fast data service to Ibadan and Calabar where it can enhance the already festering intellectual activities. Now with increase in business activities in the two cities iZAP will go a long way in solving their data problems Starcomms prides itself in the culture of bringing world class innovative products & services to its potential subscribers at affordable prices as a continuing business strategy. It has been our plan in Starcomms to make internet access available to everybody. That is why for instance, we have introduced the 1x CDMA data service to Maiduguri"

Data services users in Maiduguri will be offered as part of the package of their 1x internet service, Starcomms Neo, which is yet the most affordable internet solution in the country. Starcomms Neo is designed to work only in the 1x category and can work on both lap top and personal computers with a USB port because it is available only on USB drive.

Starcomms Neo will debut in Maiduguri with a promotion, called 'The friendly eight data package.' In this package, for the first month of Starcomms Neo activation, the subscriber will enjoy internet access free of charge within the eight hours that run from 7am to 11 am and 7pm to 11pm

END

**BOLAJI ADEPEGBA**  
**MEDIA RELATIONS&RESEARCH**

## **ABOUT STARCOMMS**

Starcomms Plc, one of the Nigeria's leading telecommunications operator and leading "triple-play" (mobile, fixed wireless voice, wireless broadband) provider started operation in 1990 with a customer base of less than 2,000, having focused initially on providing fixed wireless services. Between 2002 and 2005 it became the market leader in the fixed segment. The Company is the first telecommunications operator to be quoted on the Nigerian Stock Exchange and has over 2.35 million subscribers on its network. A CDMA 3G Mobile network, it is the largest in the country and the leading provider of 3G broadband services in Nigeria, using CDMA 2000 Ev-Do. Starcomms is the first company in Africa to launch Ev-Do high-speed broadband services in June 2006. The network now has nationwide mobile services, holding a 10-year (renewable) technology-neutral national unified license, which allows for a full range of telecommunication services on a national basis, as well as international gateway services. Starcomms is currently operational in 21 major cities covering 65 towns in all the six regions of Nigeria while work is in progress to provide coverage in 31 major cities and 140 towns in 20 states by the end of 2008. In 2007 Starcomms was named both Nigerian Telecoms Company of the Year (Nigeria Telecoms Awards) and Nigerian Wireless Telecoms Company of the Year (Nigeria Information Technology and Telecoms Awards). Starcomms has again been named the CDMA Operator of the Year 2008 while one of its products, IZAP clinched the Best Internet Product of the same year.