

Zamtel and NEC to boost mobile coverage, capacity across Zambia

Zamtel has entered into an agreement with NEC Corporation to build a new digital microwave radio transmission network in an aim to boost mobile coverage and capacity across Zambia.



Dr Nobuhiro Endo, President at NEC Corporation, and Dr Mupanga Mwanakatwe, Chief Executive Officer at Zamtel, during the signing ceremony.

NEC will reportedly upgrade Zamtel's existing backbone and access systems and commission new links to connect its macro base stations and core network wirelessly.

The agreement includes the supply, delivery, installation, testing and commissioning of NEC's microwave transmission network equipment, and is expected to be completed within 12 months at an estimated cost of \$18,329,326.

Zamtel CEO, Dr Mupanga Mwanakatwe says the new digital microwave backbone and access project will include the installation of 2Gbps, 600Mbps, 300Mbps and 150Mbps backbone and access networks based on native Ethernet microwave radio network technologies, adding that on completion, the investment will lead to the realisation of a state-of-the-art national IP microwave backbone and access network.

Dr Nobuhiro Endo, President at NEC Corporation commented, "By boosting the coverage and capacity of wireless backhaul network, Zamtel will be able to meet the ever rising demand for mobile broadband services from local citizens, enterprises and tourists across the country. NEC's highly reliable and cost-effective solution will enable Zamtel to support continued economic growth and underpin emerging services such as mobile money and high definition mobile TV, in both rural and urban locations."