



*Closing the Final Link..*

## **EASSy PROJECT - PRESS RELEASE**

**(19th August 2009)**

**EASSy submarine project, under construction, will be ready on time.**

The Management Committee of the East African Submarine Cable – EASSy held a progress review meeting in Livingstone - Zambia to assess the progress of the construction of EASSy, the undersea cable system that will link all Eastern and Southern African countries to the world wide undersea fiber optic networks. The meeting was hosted by Mr. Mr. Mukela Muyunda, Chief Executive Officer of Zambia Telecommunications Company Ltd. The meeting was officially opened by HON. PROF GEOFFREY LUNGWANGWA (PHD) MP, the Zambian Minister of Communications and Transport.

Physical installation of the EASSy cable is about to start with the laying of the shore end cable in Maputo – Mozambique, which has been shipped from the Alcatel – Lucent factory in Calais – France and shall be installed in the coming weeks. The first cable loading on board of ship will start by September 15<sup>th</sup> 2009 in readiness for laying in the next few months.

The Management Committee noted with satisfaction that manufacture of various elements of the EASSy system is in advanced stages of manufacturing. The nine Cable Landing Stations namely, Port Sudan, Djibouti, Mogadishu (Somalia), Mombasa (Kenya), Dar es Salaam (Tanzania), Moroni (Comoros), Toliary (Madagascar), Maputo (Mozambique) and Mtunzini (South Africa) are either ready or in final stage of construction.

The Management Committee is pleased to report that, thanks to the diligence of Alcatel-Lucent, the Contractor and leader in this industry, EASSy shall meet the Ready For Service date on June 30<sup>th</sup> 2010, as originally planned.

*EASSy is a consortium of 27 operators building an open access international fiber optic submarine cable, comprising Botswana Telecommunications Corporation, Bharti, BT, Comores Telecom, Etisalat (UAE), Neotel (South Africa), France Telecom, Mauritius Telecom, MTN Group, STC Group, Sudan Telecom, Telecom Malagasy, TTCL (Tanzania), Telkom South Africa, Vodacom, Zamtel and WIOCC, a joint venture comprising Botswana Telecommunications Corporation, Dalkom Somalia, Djibouti Telecom, Gilat Satcom Nigeria, Lesotho C.A., Onatel Burundi, Telecomunicações de Mozambique, Telkom Kenya, UCOM Burundi, Uganda Telecom and Zanzibar Telecom*

**“Connectivity of the East African countries to the worldwide network is well underway and EASSy will meet the expectations of governments, operators and end consumers!”** concludes Trevor Martins, MTN International and chairman of the EASSy Management Committee.

End.

**Contact person: Janet Osiro**  
**EASSy MC Chairman Office**  
CITADEL Hse Wing A 2nd Floor  
Westlands Muthithi Rd  
P.O. Box 14137 Code 00800



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Nairobi, Kenya

**janet.osiro@wiocc.net**

**Website: [www.eassy.org](http://www.eassy.org)**