



**PRESENTS**



**PRESS RELEASE**

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**WEST AFRICAN TELECOMMUNICATIONS REGULATORS ASSEMBLY &  
NIGERIAN COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION ENDORSE MAJOR AFRICAN  
REGIONAL SATELLITE COMMUNICATIONS CONFERENCE, 23-25 NOVEMBER 2005**

**GVF Warmly Welcomes Widespread Regulatory Community Support for Conference  
Dedicated to Deployment of Satellite and Satellite-Hybrid Communications Solutions  
for West Africa**

**LONDON** – High-level official support has been confirmed for a major international satellite communications conference to be held in Nigeria in November. Both the organisation of regional telecommunications regulators in West Africa (WATRA) and the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) have formalised their respective endorsements of the GVF New Communications – West African Satellite Communications Conference & Exhibition, (**NewCom WAFSAT**) which will take place at the Meridien Hotel, Abuja, Nigeria, 23-25 November 2005.

Following on the success of the first GVF NewCom Africa Conference, held in London in March this year, GVF and its organising partners, AITEC Africa and UK Event Management Partners, have dedicated this second NewCom event to the deployment of satellite and satellite hybrid-based communications solutions across the West Africa region – one of the world’s fastest growing telecommunications markets.

**NewCom WAFSAT** will feature a highly detailed and focused programme designed to examine mission critical issues in the global satellite telecommunications product and service marketplace as they impact the deployment of satellite and satellite hybrid-based communications solutions across the West Africa region, together with key trends in the policy and regulatory arena within individual national administrations, and across the administrations which collaborate and coordinate within WATRA.

The Chief Executive/Executive Vice Chairman of the NCC, Mr. Ernest Ndukwe, commented that the Commission is very pleased to be associated with **NewCom WAFSAT**, and added that “The WAFSAT conference will deliberate on key issues influencing the deployment of satellite

applications, and hybrid communications solutions to meet critical infrastructure requirements in the West African region.”

Mr. Ndukwe will deliver the Conference Keynote/Opening Address on the first day of **NewCom WAFSAT**. Under his leadership the NCC has become recognised in the international regulatory community as one of the most progressive African regulatory administrations, having developed and introduced a series of significant regulatory reforms.

The national administrations within WATRA have recently engaged in the development of a series of draft satellite regulatory guidelines which seek to promote the harmonisation of regulatory reform throughout the West African region.

Mr. Martin Jarrold, Chief of International Programme Development with the GVF, said that the industry association is delighted to have endorsement for **NewCom WAFSAT** from the NCC and WATRA. He added, “Africa’s economic development and growth is now very much centre-stage in the international policy area, and the role of telecommunications is universally recognised as pivotal to that development. The Continent has begun the process of empowering itself in the field of telecommunications, in part through regulatory reform, and in part through realising the potential of indigenous telecommunications projects, as exemplified in West Africa’s domestic satellite plans.”

The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the Nigerian National Space Research and Development Agency (NASRDA) have also been invited to support the conference programme. NASRDA is directing the preparations for launch of a West African satellite to service the communications needs of the countries of the region.

Conference sessions over the two days will include a Regulators’ Roundtable; an examination of liberalisation of satellite service markets; analysis of the voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) over satellite application; an evaluation of the satellite communications marketplace in terms of service profitability and state-of-the-art technologies; and, appraisal of the application of satellite communications to the connectivity needs of the public and private sectors. Speakers will also be asked to address the all important question of the moment: Does broadband satellite make sense for West Africa?

The further objectives of the conference include detailed exploration of the application of satellite-based solutions to meet the communications needs of a range of commercial vertical markets, including the Oil & Gas sector, as well as those of the development sector.

The two-day conference programme taking place on 23-24 November will be followed on 25 November by a number of training workshops on practical implementation of satellite technologies and strategies. For further details, see the **NewCom WAFSAT** pages of the GVF web site at [www.gvf.org](http://www.gvf.org).

NEWCOM WAFSAT IS ORGANISED BY



**Notes for Editors**

## **GVF**

Founded in 1997, GVF is the single and unified voice of the global satellite industry. It brings together organisations engaged in the delivery of advanced broadband and narrowband satellite services to consumers, and commercial and government enterprises worldwide. Headquartered in London, GVF is an independent, non-partisan and non-profit organisation with 190 members from more than 80 countries. The broad-based membership represents every major world region and every sector of the satellite industry, including fixed and mobile satellite operators, satellite network operators, teleports, satellite earth station manufacturers, system integrators, value added and enhanced service providers, telecom carriers, consultants, law firms, and users. Visit us on the Web at [www.gvf.org](http://www.gvf.org)

## **AITEC**

AITEC is Africa's leading organiser of ICT conferences and exhibitions, with offices in Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Ghana and Nigeria, as well a network of partners and agents across a wide range of other countries. AITEC also publishes the continent's leading ICT magazine, *Computing & Communications Africa*. [www.aitecafrica.com](http://www.aitecafrica.com)

## **UK-EMP**

UK Event Management Partners is a London-based consultancy providing support services to the events and media industries. The company has extensive experience and contacts in the ICT arena and is currently occupied with projects involving Russia, Eurasia, Central Europe, the Middle East and especially – Africa.

**ECOWAS** – The Economic Community of West African States, founded in 1975, and comprising 15 member nations: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, and Togo. The ECOWAS mission is to promote economic integration in all fields of economic activity, including telecommunications.

**NCC** – The Nigerian Communications Commission is the independent regulator for Nigeria's telecommunications sector. Its broad purpose is to facilitate private sector participation in telecommunications service delivery, coordinate and regulate the activities of operators to ensure consistency in availability and fair pricing.

**NASRDA** – The Nigerian National Space Research and Development Agency was established in 1998 to develop fundamental policies for the development of space science and technology.

**WATRA** – The West African Telecommunications Regulators Assembly comprises the telecommunications regulatory authorities of 11 nations. The national signatories to the WATRA Constitution are: Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Nigeria, Mali, Senegal, and Sierra Leone.