

CONTENT

FROM THE PRESIDENT

3

NOTICE BOARD

What is Conext? | Social Media | Get featured in the next Conext | Member Benefits
Let's Keep In Touch | Member Webinars | DCA Member Market Platform

4

Welcome to our new Board Members

6

From the CEO's Desk

29

WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO

Exclusive Insights from the DCA Annual Market Research Presentation

10

Key Insights from the Data & Cloud Implementation Plan Presentation

16

Celebrating Juanita Clark: A Visionary Leader in African Tech & Telecommunications

17

SONA Stakeholder Engagement Dinner

28

CALL TO ACTION

Calling All Members: Be Part of Our Sector-Specific Working Groups

15

Telecoms Vandalism in South Africa: A Growing Threat to Connectivity

27

THOUGHT LEADERSHIP

The Imperative for Modernising ICT Legislation

8

The Hidden Costs of Hosting On-Premises: Why Colocation Might Be the Smarter Choice

12

Corning Highlights Fiber Capabilities in South Africa

18

MidSouth Fiber Implements Breakthrough Outage Notification System via Calix Cloud
Integration with GLDS

20

OADC Texaf - Kinshasa Achieves Triple Certification Milestone:

22

ISO 27001, ISO 22301 & PCI DSS

Why the Internet's backbone needs urgent protection

24

UPCOMING EVENTS

Webinar: National Policy on Rapid Deployment of Electronic Communications
Networks and Facilities

7

The FTTH Europe Conference 2025

19

CONTACT US, POPI INFO & LOST & FOUND

31



FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Colleagues,

2025 is set to be a landmark year for South Africa and the African continent as we prepare to host the G20 for the first time in history. This momentous occasion underscores Africa's growing influence on the global stage, reaffirming the vital role that digital transformation plays in driving economic and social progress.

This year is also particularly special for us at the Digital Council Africa, as we celebrate our 15th anniversary. Established in 2010 as the FTTH Council Africa, our journey over the past decade and a half has been one of continuous growth, advocacy, and impact. Over the years, we have evolved alongside the rapid advancements in technology, working to shape progressive ICT policies, champion digital inclusion, and support industry stakeholders in navigating the ever-changing digital

landscape. This milestone is a testament to the collective efforts of our members, partners, and industry leaders who have contributed to shaping Africa's digital ecosystem.

As we step into this new year, we do so with renewed commitment to fostering innovation, collaboration, and sustainable growth within the digital economy. One of the most encouraging developments in this regard is the establishment of Ministerial Working Groups by the Minister of Communications and Digital Technologies, Solly Malatsi. These working groups will play a crucial role in modernising our regulatory environment, and it is imperative that we, as an industry, participate actively to ensure that our insights and expertise help shape the future of ICT policy in South Africa.

To align with these efforts, the Digital Council Africa is establishing internal working groups to ensure that our industry is well-organised and that our contributions are effectively channelled into the Ministerial Working Groups. If you have not yet received information on these initiatives, we encourage you to reach out to our team and get involved. This is a defining moment in our sector, and it is essential that our collective voice is heard.

Looking ahead, the Digital Council Africa will continue to champion industry discussions, thought leadership, and advocacy initiatives aimed at bridging the digital divide and positioning Africa as a global digital leader. Through our events, working groups, and research initiatives, we invite all members and stakeholders to actively participate in shaping the future of ICT in Africa.

I look forward to engaging with you throughout the year as we work together to ensure that Africa's digital future is one of growth, inclusion, and boundless opportunity.

Andile Ngcaba
President, Digital Council Africa

[Look out for Andile's feature article a bit later in this issue]



NOTICE BOARD

What is Conext?

“CONEXT: a relationship in which a person or thing is linked or associated with someone or something else.”

In a world that is becoming increasingly digital, it is important to ensure that ongoing engagement takes place. The Digital Council Africa strives to remain in contact with its members, and to provide its members with ongoing communication about its activities. Conext is the answer to staying engaged. Member engagement is encouraged through participation in events and working groups and through the distribution of the Conext Newsletter.

The DCA strives to offer members opportunities to network and collaborate and discuss best practice frameworks that is in the best interest of all, solving complex issues through dialogue and policy recommendations and we encourage dialogue between government and private sector from a platform that is independent and product agnostic. Conext belongs to the members of the Digital Council Africa. We welcome and encourage submissions from our members in the form of conversations related to the development of the digital economy as well as thought leadership articles you have written or would like to share, advertorials, adverts and any information that may be of interest to the ICT sector as a whole.

Contributions can be sent to Nadene Reignier at nadene@digitalcouncil.africa

Social Media

Social media is a fast, effective way to reach our target audience and create awareness of not only the Digital Council and our work but also for our members and as a means to share relevant industry news and updates. We have close to 6000 followers across our 3 platforms and had an organic reach of over 3000 on LinkedIn over the last 3 weeks alone. We plan to keep increasing our social media reach and leveraging it to grow awareness of the work of the Council and its members.

LET'S STAY CONEXTED. FOLLOW US ON



Want to feature your company in the upcoming Conext?

This publication is a free platform for the members of the Digital Council Africa. We welcome and encourage submissions from our members in the form of conversations related to the development of the digital economy as well as thought leadership articles you have written or would like to share, advertorials, adverts and any information that may be of interest to the ICT sector as a whole.

Next Issue: April 2025

Contributions can be sent to Nadene Reignier at nadene@digitalcouncil.africa

Member Benefits

By joining the Digital Council Africa members have a competitive advantage because they become informed members of their industry as the council actively engages and represents its members at government level. Council members who lead busy professional lives can depend on the organisation to represent and brief them on important industry trends, new legislative rulings, and advances in technology. The main platform the Digital Council Africa (DCA) uses for this is through its annual conference. This event aims to attract C-level speakers and best of breed OEM's and distributors to keep industry informed and updated on the latest trends in technology and legislation. **To find out more visit our [website](#).**

NOTICE BOARD

Let's keep in touch

As people come and go, it's important to keep our database up to date. Please take a moment to update your contact information so we can stay connected. Your updated details ensure you receive the latest news and updates from Digital Council Africa. Thank you for helping us keep our community strong!

Updated contact details can be sent to Nadene Reignier at nadene@digitalcouncil.africa

Member Webinars

The Digital Council invites all members to participate in upcoming webinars, which will focus on key topics pertaining to the industry. These webinars will be held on an ad-hoc basis via the collaboration platform and will be communicated via the member mailing list. Please note that members may also request to host a webinar, provided that the content is relevant and informative.

Please contact Reesha Iyer at reesha@digitalcouncil.africa.

A Warm Welcome

To Our New Board Members

Alex Masu - Head of Africa and Middle East: Network Investments, Meta



Alex Masu heads up the Africa and Middle East Network Investments team for Meta, which is responsible for driving infrastructure investment for subsea cables, terrestrial fibre and the enablement of carrier-neutral colocation sites. This team is currently responsible for executing the 2Africa cable system, which is currently the most extensive subsea fibre optic cable system in the world - connecting Africa, Europe and the Middle East with 46 landings in 33 countries.

He was previously an Executive Head of Mergers and Acquisitions at the Vodacom Group, where he led the corporate finance and capital raise efforts for the Global Partnership Ethiopia consortium bid (including Safaricom, Vodacom, Vodafone, Sumitomo and CDC) for a new telco licence in Ethiopia. Amongst other deals, he was also responsible for acquiring Vodafone's current global IoT platform.

Alex earned his Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering degree from the University of Cape Town. He started his career as a mechanical engineer - designing petrochemical and nuclear plants - before making a career shift into strategy consulting and, subsequently, mergers and acquisitions within investment banking, working at Barclays and Standard Chartered.

Alex's passion for technology started when he taught himself to code at age 12. In his free time, he enjoys travelling and photography. You will typically find him behind his camera lens, capturing wildlife and interesting sites which have been featured in various publications.

Our New Board Members



Charis Jenkins - Senior Manager Government & Regulatory Affairs, Africa & Asia, SBA Communications

Charis Jenkins has over 15 years of experience in strategic communications, public policy advocacy, intergovernmental relations, and regulatory affairs. As the Senior Manager of Government and Regulatory Affairs for Africa at SBA Communications Corporation, she leads the development and implementation of regulatory strategies to advance telecommunications infrastructure and promote inclusive digital connectivity across SBA's markets in Africa.

Prior to joining SBA, Charis served as an Intergovernmental and International Relations Advisor at the South African Local Government Association (SALGA), where she worked with national and international stakeholders to advance local government priorities. Her career also includes experience in both development, and corporate communications, with a focus on stakeholder

engagement at the Department Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) and the Northern Cape Provincial Legislature, respectively.

Charis holds an MBA from the University of Stellenbosch Business School, a Bachelor of Public Administration Honours, and a Bachelor of Arts in International Studies.

Sandile Dube - Managing Director, Equinix, South Africa

Sandile Dube joined Equinix in November 2023. In his role, Sandile is responsible for leading Equinix's South African entry strategy, working closely with existing global customers and new local South African businesses and organizations to support their ambitions and leverage the huge growth and connectivity potential on the African continent.

Before joining Equinix, Sandile was the Managing Director of Hewlett Packard Enterprises (HPE) South Africa where he drove remarkable success in a challenging economic market. Prior to his most recent role at HPE, Sandile was the Country Manager for Sales and Channel after a successful tenure as a Sales Executive at Britehouse, a division of Dimension Data.

Sandile also served in the board of directors during his tenure at HPE South Africa. He brings a wealth of expertise to EQUINIX, accumulated over two decades in the ICT market.

Sandile holds executive certifications from renowned institutions including IE Business School in Madrid and Stellenbosch Business School in Belville, northern Cape Town.



WEBINAR

National Policy on Rapid Deployment of Electronic Communications Networks and Facilities

Register to join us

28 February | 10:00 - 11:00

EXPERT SPEAKERS

Lesetja Motlatla
Director IT Policy, DCDT

Vusi Mthembu
Deputy Director Telecommunications Policy, DCDT



communications & digital technologies

Department:
Communications & Digital Technologies
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



The Digital Council Africa, in collaboration with the **Department of Communications and Digital Technologies (DCDT)**, invites you to an informative webinar on the National Policy on Rapid Deployment of Electronic Communications Networks and Facilities.

This is a must-attend session for all stakeholders in the **telecommunications sector**, offering critical insights into the **National Policy on Rapid Deployment of Electronic Communications and Facilities**. Published on 31 March 2023, this policy plays a pivotal role in shaping the deployment of electronic communications infrastructure across South Africa. The webinar will unpack the policy provisions and provide clarity on the rights and obligations of telecommunications providers and landowners.

Date: 28 February 2025

Time: 10:00 – 11:30

Online via Teams

Register now to secure your spot.

We look forward to your participation in this important discussion.



The Imperative for Modernising ICT Legislation

The Digital Council Africa outlines the key priorities for ICT legislative reform, based on recent discussions and thought leadership from industry experts, including our President, Andile Ngcaba.

The need to modernise South Africa's ICT legislative framework has never been more urgent. Many of our existing regulations, established between 1994 and 2003, have become outdated, unable to keep pace with the rapid technological advancements and the evolving needs of our society. Laws such as the Electronic Communications and Transactions Act of 2002 and the Telecommunications Act of 1996, while groundbreaking at the time, now fall short in addressing contemporary technologies like artificial intelligence (AI), blockchain, and non-terrestrial networks.

The current regulatory framework often hampers innovation and delays critical processes. For instance, acquisition approvals can take anywhere from 6 weeks to 6

months and in some cases even longer — timeframes that is misaligned with the fast-paced nature of today's digital economy.

There is much infrastructure that still needs to be built out, and to foster an environment conducive to growth and competitiveness, we must discard outdated laws and craft new, forward-thinking policies that reflect the realities of the digital age.

Strategic Policy Directions for the Future

As we look ahead, our policy approach must be both visionary and pragmatic, aiming to position South Africa and the broader African continent as leaders in the global digital arena.

Key areas of focus should include:

- 1. INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT:** The expansion of fibre networks, data centres and cloud computing, and towers and 5G networks are essential for our digital transformation. Policies should incentivise investment in these areas, ensuring that infrastructure development is both rapid and inclusive, reaching underserved communities and bridging the digital divide.
- 2. ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND DATA GOVERNANCE:** AI has become a focal point of global technological competition. South Africa cannot afford to remain passive; we must invest in AI research, establish AI development hubs, and create regulatory frameworks that encourage innovation while safeguarding ethical standards.

- 3. CYBERSECURITY AND DATA PROTECTION:** With the full implementation of the Protection of Personal Information Act (POPIA), there is a heightened need for robust cybersecurity measures. As AI and big data analytics become more prevalent, our data governance policies must evolve to protect users and maintain trust in digital systems.
- 4. EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT:** To fully harness the potential of the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR), we must prioritise education and skills development. This includes integrating coding and AI literacy into school curricula and providing continuous learning opportunities to equip our workforce with the skills necessary for a digital economy.

A Call to Collective Action

As we navigate the complexities of ICT policy and regulation, it is clear that no single entity can drive this transformation alone. Collaboration between government, the private sector, academia, and civil society is essential to create policies that are forward-thinking, inclusive, and responsive to the needs of the digital economy.

The leadership of the Digital Council Africa urges all industry stakeholders to actively engage in the ongoing regulatory discussions and contribute to shaping the policies that will define our digital future. We have a moment in time now to change the digital future of our country, but to achieve this we need to work together, positively contributing to the opportunities for transformation put before us.

The time for modernising our ICT laws is now, and through collective action, we can ensure that South Africa and the broader African continent remain at the forefront of global digital transformation and not just be a participant in the digital economy, but lead it.



"The time for modernising our ICT laws is now. To ensure South Africa leads in global digital transformation, we must work together to craft forward-thinking policies that reflect the realities of the digital age."

WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO

EXCLUSIVE MEMBER WEBINAR

STATE OF THE MARKET:

A deep dive into the Digital Council Africa's Annual Market Research



28 January 2025 | 10:00 - 13:00

EXPERT SPEAKER

Bora Varilyagci | CEO, Digitalthings

Exclusive Insights from the DCA Annual Market Research Presentation

On 28 January, the Digital Council Africa hosted an exclusive members-only webinar, offering a deep dive into the current state of digital infrastructure across Sub-Saharan Africa. Led by Bora Varilyagci, CEO of digitalthings, the session provided critical insights into the latest industry trends, policy developments, and investment landscapes shaping the region's digital ecosystem.

Each year, the Digital Council Africa conducts a comprehensive study to measure key indicators tracking the evolution of digital infrastructure. This research has grown in scope over time, now encompassing assessments of policy directions, investment environments, and emerging technologies. It serves as a valuable resource for members, equipping businesses with the data they need to navigate the rapidly changing digital economy.

As an exclusive benefit for Digital Council Africa members, this in-depth research offers essential intelligence to support strategic decision-making and industry innovation. For those who could not attend the live session, a recording of the presentation is available, ensuring that all members can access and apply these insights.

Key Focus Areas of the Research

The 2024 research report provides an in-depth analysis of Africa's digital infrastructure, offering exclusive insights into:

- **Global and Africa Snapshot** – A comparative view of global digital infrastructure trends and how Africa is positioned within this evolving landscape.
- **Africa's Digital Evolution & Key Infrastructure Developments**
 - » Satellite Connectivity – Assessing satellite solutions and their role in expanding connectivity.
 - » International Connectivity – Analyzing submarine cable developments and global connectivity integration.
 - » Terrestrial & Fixed Last Mile Connectivity – Evaluating fibre network expansion and last-mile solutions.
 - » Mobile Connectivity (2G, 3G, 4G, 5G) – Tracking mobile network advancements and adoption rates.
 - » Devices & Tower Infrastructure – Understanding smartphone penetration and the role of towers in network expansion.
 - » Internet Exchanges & Data Centre Infrastructure – Examining digital interconnectivity hubs and Africa's growing data centre ecosystem.

WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO

- » Regulatory Landscape – Identifying policy trends and the countries with the most investment-friendly frameworks.
- » SSA Government AI Readiness – Exploring how governments are preparing for AI-driven digital transformation.
- **Country-Specific Analysis** – Focused insights into key markets, including Angola, Cote d'Ivoire, DRC, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa, Tanzania, and Zambia.

Why This Research Matters:

- **Industry Insights** – Stay ahead with the latest trends, investments, and challenges shaping Africa's digital sector.
- **Strategic Decision-Making** – Access valuable data to support infrastructure planning, policy advocacy, and business expansion.
- **Bridging the Digital Divide** – Explore strategies to enhance connectivity in underserved regions and foster inclusive economic growth.
- **Regulatory Updates** – Gain a clear understanding of evolving policies and their impact on industry development.
- **Future Roadmap** – Identify emerging opportunities and innovations that will define Africa's role in the global digital economy.

By equipping stakeholders—including policymakers, telecom operators, investors, and technology leaders—with critical market intelligence, this research plays a pivotal role in shaping Africa's digital future.

For members looking to stay at the forefront of industry transformation, this report is an invaluable tool. If you missed the webinar, be sure to access the recording to gain these exclusive insights.

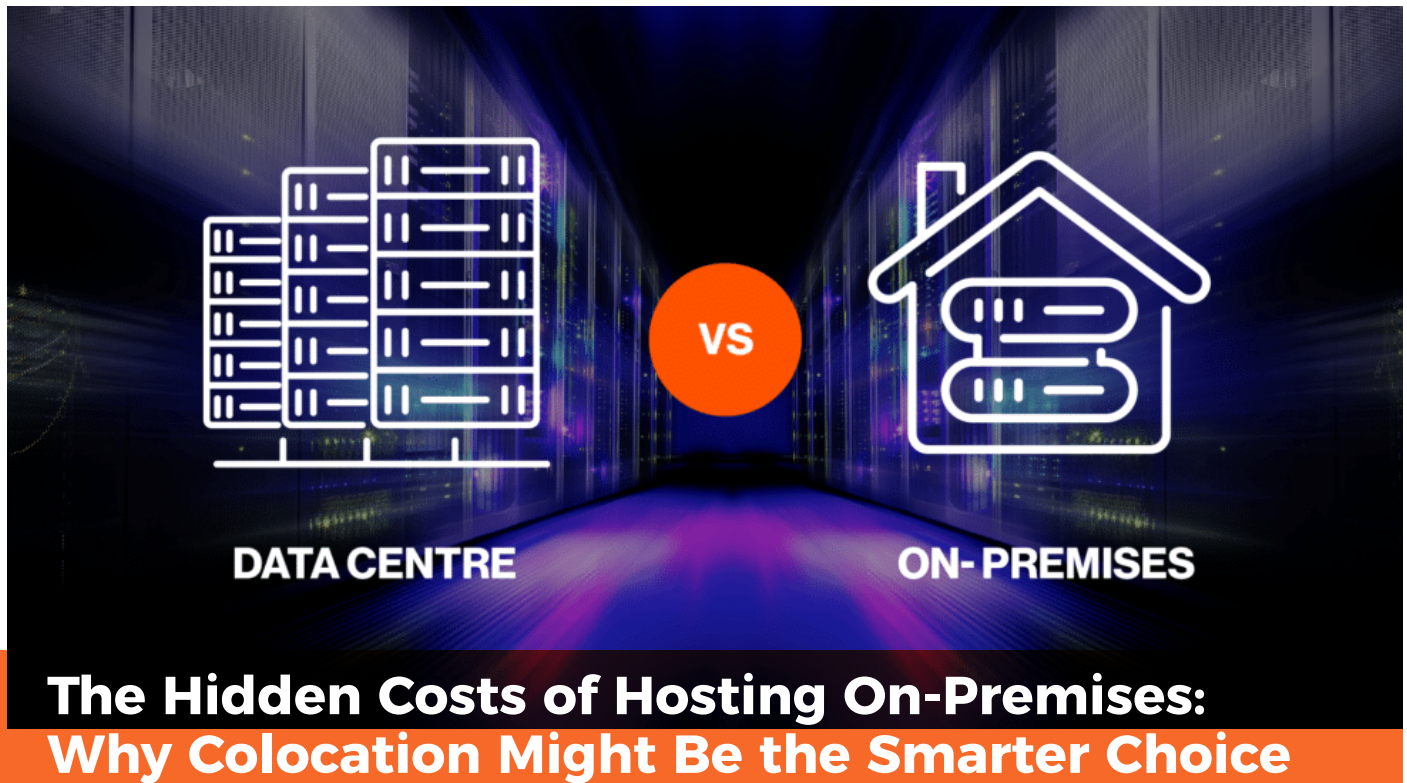
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- Polarity verification

LAMBDA

EXFO





IT leaders carry the weight of every infrastructure decision, with choices that extend far beyond managing servers. Many businesses underestimate the hidden costs of hosting on-premises – power, cooling, security, and skilled expertise.

The following article explains why colocation offers a scalable, resilient solution under a service level agreement (SLA).

Technology has the power to define the success of any organisation, and IT leaders are feeling the weight of their every decision. These choices extend far beyond managing servers or balancing budgets and can shape the future of an organisation. For years, IT teams have debated whether it's better to manage infrastructure on-premises or rely on a colocation provider.

For many organisations, maintaining on-premises IT infrastructure may seem like the most efficient option. Having complete control over servers, data storage, and applications can be highly appealing. "And for some businesses, keeping their infrastructure on-premise does make sense, but there are hidden costs that are often not considered when IT leaders are making the decisions about where to host their infrastructure," says Warren Schooling, Head of Sales Digital Parks Africa (DPA).

According to Schooling, the key question that needs to be considered when making the decision, is: "How much?. How much downtime is acceptable to you, how much are you willing to pay to mitigate that downtime, how much will that downtime cost you, and how much effort and resources are required," he says.

Understanding that the cost of on-premises infrastructure is not just about a rack or server, but also all the other requirements that go into managing equipment and ensuring the availability, alternative power and cooling, and the skills to manage not just the IT loads, but also the periphery requirements of maintaining local infrastructure.

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

- **REDUNDANT POWER:** For most South African businesses, the first key consideration is the power that is required to operate the infrastructure. Redundant power is a stark reality in the South African context with unreliable utilities. That means ensuring your on-premises infrastructure is protected by not only UPSes, but also generators. "The assurance that the UPS can carry the IT load as well as the auxiliary load for cooling, monitoring and support systems," says Schooling. Battery capacity should be matched to the total load and allow sufficient time for the generator to synchronise and take load.

- **COOLING:** Overheating of sensitive IT equipment due to cooling units being out of service during a power outage poses significant risks. Organisations must consider the capacity requirements to take the load, as well as comply with the regulations required for storing fuel reserves on their premises. "As irregular and extended power outages continue across the country, businesses are forced to incur additional costs as they must now invest in and maintain in-house generators," says Schooling.
- **SPECIALISED SKILLS:** Another important hidden cost that is often overlooked by businesses making this decision. Contracting the skills to manage the redundancy services are specialised and costly. Calculating loads, understanding structural requirements, maintaining generators, UPSes, and cooling systems are jobs for specialist engineers. "In entrepreneurial organisations, these functions are often left to IT support, who are expected to manage not only IT matters, but also a generator," says Schooling. For most organisations, contracting a team of skilled electromechanical engineers at this level is challenging, costly and not feasible.
- **CAPACITY PLANNING:** Taking into account the importance of future-proofing your infrastructure resilience, "What if your business needs to grow? Will you have enough space or capacity to meet the growing demands and infrastructure requirements?" asks Schooling.
- **SECURITY AND RISK MANAGEMENT:** "When you're running a mission critical data centre on premises, you have to ramp up physical security and consider factors like emergency maintenance access control," Schooling says.

These costs add up quickly, requiring significant upfront investment in infrastructure and skilled labour," says Schooling. "This is why I believe the important question for companies must be 'how much?'. If the total cost of ownership is too much, then a colocation provider may prove to be the best solution for your business," he says.

HOW COLOCATION CAN MITIGATE THESE COSTS

Colocation providers offer all the required services with a service level agreement (SLA), from redundant power, sufficient cooling, accredited engineering, networking and security. Capitalising on the benefits of shifting hosting expenses from CAPEX to OPEX under an SLA provides companies with confidence that their infrastructure is safe and resilient in contrast to what many believe they have when it is located on-premises.

"At Digital Parks Africa, we provide all the possible requirements, needs and solutions to support customer infrastructure under SLA. This includes electrical, structural and IT engineers overseeing your infrastructure and our data centre operations, the availability of backup power, provisioning of efficient cooling, access control and white space for your business to grow."

"On-premises infrastructure may be sufficient for some organisations, but when availability, scalability and flexibility are mission critical, colocation becomes the smarter choice. Ultimately, the decision should align with your company's goals, service priorities – and most importantly – be evaluated against how much you are willing to invest in this area of your business," he says.





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Web www.icl.co.za

CALL TO ACTION



Calling All Members: Be Part of Our Sector- Specific Working Groups

At the Digital Council Africa, our priority is to deliver value to our members. One of the ways we achieve this is through ongoing engagement with various sectors to address industry challenges and opportunities.

To strengthen this effort, the DCA is establishing formal working groups within each sector.

Our current mandate extends to Fibre network operators, Towers Infrastructure Providers, Data-centres & Cloud Operators, Submarine Cable Operators, and OTT's.

These groups will serve as platforms for collaboration and problem-solving, addressing key issues and proactively identifying future challenges.

By working together, we aim to develop effective solutions that support a sustainable and thriving sector for all stakeholders.

These working groups will be managed by the DCA, and to further support this initiative, we have partnered with Primerio, a team of seasoned competition law experts, former regulators, and economists. Their expertise will provide valuable guidance in navigating industry complexities and regulatory matters.

The aim of these groups is to tackle key sector-specific challenges, collaborate on finding effective solutions, and proactively identify and address emerging issues. These groups will also provide a platform for sharing knowledge and developing forward-thinking strategies for the digital infrastructure space and in doing so ensure its sustainability and rapid growth.

We invite our Members to participate in the working groups.

Participation in the Working Groups is open to a range of stakeholders, including:

- Industry players (companies and investors)
- Regulators and government bodies
- Standards organizations
- Academic institutions

Members may nominate a representative/s who will contribute both their organization's perspective and their personal expertise to the group's work.

For further details please refer to the [Terms of Reference Document](#).

If you are interested in joining a working group related to your sector, please reach out to Reesha Iyer at reesha@digitalcouncil.africa to express your interest.

INVITATION

DRAFT DATA & CLOUD IMPLEMENTATION PLAN PRESENTATION



7 February 2025 | 10:00 - 11:30

EXPERT SPEAKER

Alfred Mmoto Acting Deputy Director General: ICT Policy Development

Key Insights from the Data & Cloud Implementation Plan Presentation

On 7 February 2025, the Digital Council Africa, in collaboration with the **Department of Communications and Digital Technologies (DCDT)**, hosted an online presentation on the **Data & Cloud Implementation Plan**—a crucial framework for South Africa's digital future.

We were honoured to have Alfred Mmoto, Acting Deputy Director General: ICT Policy Development, leading the session. His deep expertise provided valuable insights into the plan's vision, priorities, and expected impact offering attendees a deep dive into its strategic direction. Participants engaged in meaningful discussions, providing critical feedback on implementation areas, industry challenges, and opportunities to enhance the plan's effectiveness.

This interactive session underscored the importance of collaboration in shaping South Africa's data and cloud ecosystem. Attendees explored ways to improve the plan's usability, stakeholder engagement, and industry alignment, ensuring it drives innovation and inclusivity across the sector.

For those who missed the live event, Click on the link below to watch the full presentation.

[Watch a recording of the presentation](#)



Celebrating Juanita Clark: A Visionary Leader in African Tech & Telecom- munications

We are thrilled to announce that Juanita Clark, Co-Founder and CEO of the Digital Council Africa, has been recognised as one of the Top 100 Influential African Leaders in Technology and Telecommunications for 2024 by the prestigious Africa Tech Festival. This accolade, particularly in the non-profit category, underscores Juanita's unwavering dedication to advancing digital infrastructure and connectivity across the continent.

Championing Africa's Digital Transformation

The Africa Tech Festival celebrates individuals who are not only visionaries but also catalysts for innovation, economic growth, and societal empowerment. These leaders are at the forefront of Africa's rapid technological and telecommunications expansion, playing pivotal roles in job creation, community empowerment, and positioning Africa as a formidable player in the global economy.

Juanita exemplifies these qualities through her relentless efforts with the Digital Council Africa. Under her leadership, the council has been instrumental in promoting the development of digital infrastructure, advocating for policies that foster connectivity, and facilitating collaborations between public and private sectors. Her vision has been crucial in addressing the unique challenges posed by Africa's diverse cultures, languages, and economic landscapes.

Corning Highlights Fiber Capabilities in South Africa

The U.S. Consulate General in Cape Town, South Africa, recently hosted a breakfast session with Corning, marking a significant day in the telecom industry in Africa.

Scheduled during the flagship annual Africa Tech Festival Nov. 12-14, the session highlighted Corning's broadband innovation to key telecom industry decision makers and influencers in Cape Town.



Roshene McCool & Rufus Andrew with USG VIPs

"The event was an amazing opportunity to reinforce Corning's superior technology leadership position in the fiber industry. This ensures that the highest quality products and networks can be built to leave no African behind, as we believe that everyone has a right to quality broadband access," said Rufus Andrew, Regional Director Corning International for Africa and Middle East.

Africa is projected to record *the highest fixed broadband growth rate* between 2024-2027. This was highlighted, and the potential opportunities and challenges it presents were thoroughly discussed. The need for innovation and robust infrastructure to support this massive growth was also a key point of discussion.

"The tremendous growth for fiber network projects in Africa and the Middle East presents a great potential for Corning in this region. This aligns with our growth strategy in the Corning India Middle East & Africa (IMEA) region, which is critical for our development," said Sudhir Pillai, Managing Director, Corning India.

This session was a wellspring of dialogue and collaboration that could shape the future of the telecom industry in Africa. The attendees gained valuable insights, had the opportunity to network with industry leaders, and explored potential future initiatives.

The guest list featured an impressive assembly of executives from cable manufacturers, operators and distributors. Representatives from U.S. Government Trade Agencies focused on Africa also attended. The event opened with remarks from host Allison V. Areias, U.S. Consular General of Cape Town.

Roshene McCool, Global Director Market & Technology Development, Optical Fiber & Cable at Corning, and current President of the Fibre to the Home Council Europe, presented an engaging keynote titled "Innovation Fiber Technology to Meet the Needs of Next-Generation Networks."



Guests listening to a presentation



Roshene delivering her Presentation



Corning Employees

Roshene underscored Corning’s long-term experience in low-loss optical fibers; from their invention 50 years ago at Corning’s research facilities to today’s global, state-of-the-art manufacturing footprint. She highlighted Corning’s latest innovations in ultra-low-loss optical fibers for advanced transmission systems and their advantages in these applications. Corning fibers under the spotlight in Roshene’s talk were SMF-28® ULL fiber with a lower outer diameter and advanced bend resilience; TXF® optical fiber, with a large effective area for low noise transmission in amplified links; and Vascade® EX2500 fiber our lowest loss, low outer diameter, large-effective-area fiber, ideal for subsea to land transitions.

The session was a testament to the power of collective minds coming together to discuss, deliberate, and design the future of telecom in Africa. It was a day of knowledge, experience, and innovation, reflecting the collaborative spirit needed to drive the future of the telecom industry in Africa.

Visit [Corning.com](https://www.corning.com) to find our more

UPCOMING EVENT

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The FTTH Europe Conference 2025 will take place in Amsterdam on 25-27 March.

Please contact Reesha Iyer at reesha@digitalcouncil.africa to receive the exclusive DCA member discount code.

Learn more about programme, speakers, and exhibitors of the FTTH Europe Conference 2025 at www.ftthconference.eu

CASE STUDY

MidSouth Fiber Implements Breakthrough Outage Notification System via Calix Cloud Integration with GLDS



COMPANY

MidSouth Fiber Internet

YEAR ESTABLISHED

2020

COMPANY TYPE

Parent Company—Electric Cooperative

WEBSITE

www.midsouthfiber.com

LOCATION

Navasota, Texas

SERVICES

Residential/Business Internet and VoIP

SUBSCRIBERS

17,000

THE CHALLENGE

MidSouth Fiber Internet aims to drive economic growth across the six Texas counties served by its parent company, MidSouth Electric Cooperative, by providing high-speed fiber to underserved communities.

As part of an 85-year-old electric cooperative, MidSouth has a long-standing reputation for looking after its member-owners—particularly in outage situations. The company uses state-of-the-art technology to proactively notify electric customers of service interruptions and maintain communication throughout the resolution process. The challenge was to replicate this at their fiber subsidiary.

MidSouth needed an automated outage notification system to help reduce the number of calls to customer support and provide a more proactive, data-driven approach to managing service disruptions. However, building this new system required integrating their broadband network management and existing OSS/BSS systems and developing new ways to automate subscriber communications.

THE SOLUTION

MidSouth built their fiber network on the [Calix Broadband Platform](#), including [Calix Cloud](#)® to gain instant insights and visibility into everything happening across their systems, services, and subscribers. They use the [GLDS BroadHub](#) solution to manage OSS/BSS functions, such as billing and subscriber management. Utilizing webhooks in Calix Cloud, MidSouth quickly and easily integrated Calix [Operations Cloud](#) into their OSS/BSS environment. This seamless integration was made possible by the power of the platform and Calix's partner ecosystem that



We now get real-time updates on service disruptions and impacted subscribers the moment they happen, allowing our internal teams to take swift action to resolve the problem. This has dramatically reduced the volume of inbound calls to our service centers. It's another example of how we continue to add value for our co-op members and deliver for our communities.”

Luke Hofferber, Technical Project Coordinator

includes a strong partnership with GLDS—allowing MidSouth to overcome resource limitations and streamline operations. Through the integration, MidSouth created an automated SMS-based solution to keep subscribers updated with personalized text messages during outage situations:

- An alert that a problem was detected, and MidSouth is aware of it.
- An update on dispatched field technicians and their arrival time.
- A progress report on the likely time until service restoration.
- A confirmation when the problem has been resolved.

This collaboration between GLDS and Calix has transformed MidSouth’s repair operations. By integrating proactive outage management into GLDS’ BroadHub system, MidSouth can detect network disruptions the moment they occur using machine-to-machine communication via webhooks. This provides immediate insights into service disruptions and notifies internal teams and affected customers instantly.

THE RESULT

The outage notification system is one of the first of its kind in North America and has played a key role in elevating MidSouth’s brand. It has delivered demonstrable improvements in communications between internal teams and subscribers, shortened outage response times, and reduced trouble tickets.

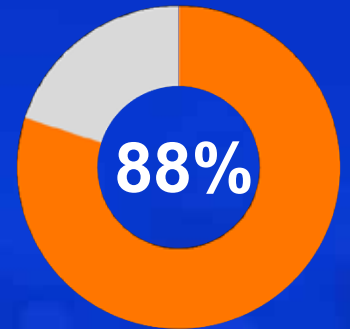
In an early test of the system, 99 subscribers were impacted by a network outage. Of those impacted, 53 had opted into SMS notifications and were proactively contacted. Only 4 percent of the SMS-enabled subscribers called in to report the outage, compared to 33 percent of those who hadn’t received the text message. This resulted in an 88 percent reduction in call volume—a statistic that has remained broadly consistent during subsequent incidents.

MidSouth estimates that these automation technologies saved more than \$200,000 in operating expenses (OPEX) over the year. These efficiencies were driven by an estimated 8,500 hours of labor saved due to switching from manual processes and workflows. The system also detects issues before they impact subscribers—acting as a network health “early warning system” by monitoring a range of performance indicators, such as optical light levels and bit errors.

In case you have any questions reach out to:

Ryan Bruton, Sales Manager – Africa at ryan.bruton@calix.com or +2782 782 7091

RESULTS



Reduction in Service Calls



\$200k

Annual OPEX Savings



8,500

Manual Labor Hours Saved



OADC Texaf - Kinshasa Achieves Triple Certification Milestone: ISO 27001, ISO 22301 & PCI DSS

In another first for the DRC, Open Access Data Centres (OADC) Texaf - Kinshasa proudly announces the attainment of three prestigious certifications: ISO 27001, ISO 22301 and PCI DSS. This remarkable pioneering achievement underscores OADC Texaf - Kinshasa’s steadfast commitment to delivering secure, resilient and world-class digital infrastructure services in the DRC that meet stringent global standards.

ISO 27001, the globally recognised standard for Information Security Management Systems (ISMS), validates that OADC Texaf - Kinshasa has implemented robust measures for its information security management, demonstrating its ability to reassure clients of its information security integrity. This certification also underpins the Payment Card Industry Data Security Standard (PCI DSS) Certification.

PCI-DSS compliance establishes OADC Texaf - Kinshasa as a trusted partner for the financial services and payments industry. This globally recognised certification demonstrates adherence to stringent payments industry security protocols and controls, playing a key role in transforming the DRC’s financial and payments ecosystem. It also provides critical reassurance in meeting the growing demands for financial inclusion among the DRC population.

Finally, ISO 22301 certification; the Business Continuity Management System (BCMS) ensures uninterrupted service delivery and rapid recovery from unforeseen disruptions, providing clients with critical assurances of operational excellence and resilience - a cornerstone of trust and reliability for business demanding the utmost in operational integrity.

Mr. Mohammed Bouhelal, Managing Director of OADC Texaf - Kinshasa, remarked: "Achieving ISO 27001, ISO 22301 and PCI DSS certifications is a testament to our unwavering dedication to operational excellence and client-centric service delivery. These milestones position OADC as a leader in secure and resilient digital infrastructure, supporting the growth of the DRC’s digital economy and fostering trust among local and international businesses."



Mohammed Bouhelal

These certifications hold immense significance for OADC Texaf - Kinshasa’s diverse clientele, including Internet Service Providers (ISPs), telecommunications carriers, enterprise clients, banks and other financial services companies. By meeting and exceeding global standards, OADC Texaf - Kinshasa strengthens the foundation for secure and reliable digital services, enabling innovation and economic growth across the region.

This achievement also bolsters the DRC's position as an emerging hub for digital infrastructure in Africa, attracting foreign investment and fostering confidence in the country's digital transformation journey. As the demand for secure, resilient and compliant data centre services grows, OADC Texaf - Kinshasa remains at the forefront, setting benchmarks for excellence and shaping the future of the digital economy in the DRC and central Africa.

About OADC Texaf – Kinshasa data centre

The OADC Texaf – Kinshasa data centre, a 2MW-capable facility, is the DRC's first live open-access, carrier-neutral, and Uptime Institute Tier-III certified data centre. Designed to support the nation's growing demand for digital services, this facility is set to be an essential building block in the expansion of the DRC's digital ecosystem, particularly for the banking industry.

About Sofibanque

Sofibanque was founded in early 2010 in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo. The bank follows a model designed to offer its clients first-class personalized service through a comprehensive range of products and services tailored to the local environment. With its digital services and emphasis on proximity to its clients, Sofibanque aims to serve the economy and the people of the DRC. The quality of its assets, characterized by the diversity of its revenue sources and the strength of its equity, combined with high corporate governance standards, has contributed to Sofibanque's strong financial position and stable profitability.

About Open Access Data Centres

Africa's fastest-growing data centre company, Open Access Data Centres (OADC), a WIOCC Group company, is implementing a world-class, open-access, carrier-neutral, pan-African data centre footprint that delivers an unparalleled client experience, offering expert assistance and support, partnership in tailoring bespoke solutions and leading-edge information systems to support client business decision-making.

OADC is deploying its open-access, Tier-III hyperscale data centres at major cable landing locations and in key business hubs throughout Africa. OADC EDGE data centres are being deployed into smaller locations, serving the ongoing need to support service providers in extending network reach, and the rapidly growing requirement for content storage, processing, and delivery at the network edge. OADC is an environmentally responsible company and as such is pursuing a wide range of environmental and sustainability management accreditations.

About WIOCC Group

Since 2008, WIOCC Group, Africa's converged open-access digital infrastructure (CODI) leader, has been helping transform Africa's digital landscape by introducing client-centric innovations.

WIOCC Group is the parent company of WIOCC, Africa's digital backbone, and Open Access Data Centres (OADC), Africa's fastest-growing data centre company. It is pioneering and accelerating Africa's digital transformation: creating an environment in which all Africans can take advantage of world-class technology develop-

ments to build better lives, better businesses and a better world, by deploying CODI across Africa; infrastructure that is expediting and underpinning Africa's digital transformation.

About TEXAF

Established in 1925, TEXAF is the only listed company with all its activities in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). Currently, these are concentrated on real estate and quarrying, although TEXAF is beginning to develop a new branch of activity in the digital field and aims to become a major player in this sector.

If you would like any further information or have any questions, please contact Huguette Kalala, Country Marketing Manager – DRC, at huguette.kalala@wiocc.net.

For more information about OADC Texaf - Kinshasa please visit: <https://openaccessdc.net/oadc-kinshasa/>



Why the Internet's backbone needs urgent protection

By Alpheus Mangale, SEACOM Group CEO

In a world where the Internet powers everything from banking to healthcare, education, security, and even our social lives, we rarely stop to think about the invisible infrastructure keeping it all connected.

While satellites and wireless networks offer some redundancy, subsea cables remain the backbone of global connectivity. Beneath our oceans, over 600 subsea cables – stretching over 1.4 million kilometres – carry **97% of the world's internet** traffic. These fibre-optic cables enable over \$10 trillion in financial transactions daily and form the digital economy's backbone.

A fragile digital backbone

The demand for connectivity is skyrocketing, with the submarine cable market expected to grow from \$18.28 billion in 2023 to **\$33.29 billion by 2028**. However, this expansion hasn't been matched with the necessary security measures, leaving these critical networks increasingly vulnerable. We need to rethink how we protect this infrastructure before the cracks in our digital foundation become full-blown fractures.

1. Accidents and physical damage

Subsea cables might be engineered for durability but are far from invincible. Fishing trawlers, ship anchors, and dredging cause more than 70% of failures, making maritime activity the most significant threat. Natural disasters like earthquakes and underwater landslides also pose risks. A recent *rockslide near Côte d'Ivoire* severed four major cables, disrupting connectivity in 13 West African countries.

Geopolitical tensions further compound these risks. More cables don't necessarily mean better security. A single, well-placed cut can still wipe out internet access across entire regions, emphasizing the need for stronger protection measures.

2. The power shift in cable ownership

Telecom companies and international technology consortia controlled subsea cables for decades, ensuring balanced global connectivity. But today, global investments are led by a few global tech giants. Although these investments are welcome and answer a global need for the world, they must also be balanced with lesser dependency on them without the risk of domination of new subsea cable projects, which can lead to unprecedented control over global data flow.

While such investments have accelerated infrastructure expansion and improved capacity, they also raise uncomfortable questions: 1) Who controls the data flow? 2) Will nations become dependent on foreign tech giants for connectivity? 3) What happens if these companies prioritize their own services over broader public access?

With little regulatory oversight, private corporations are shaping the future of global connectivity, determining who gets access, where cables are built, and under what conditions. If left unchecked, this power shift could reshape the Internet in unpredictable ways, making it essential for policymakers to act now.

What needs to change?

Strengthening the resilience of subsea cables requires a multi-layered approach, focusing on infrastructure planning, cybersecurity, and international cooperation.

1. Smarter infrastructure planning

Instead of relying on a few key cables, providers must route global internet traffic through multiple diverse pathways to avoid single points of failure. Strategic cable placement is also crucial – many cables run through politically sensitive or high-risk maritime zones, making them vulnerable to accidents and sabotage. Future deployments must prioritize safer, well-planned routes. Additionally, more substantial materials and AI-powered monitoring can help detect early signs of damage and prevent outages before they occur.

2. International cooperation and regulation

A lack of centralized oversight leaves subsea cables exposed to security gaps. Similar to treaties governing airspace and territorial waters, global agreements must set clear regulations for cable security, monitoring, and rapid response. Governments must ensure fair competition and prevent a handful of companies from dictating global connectivity. Collaboration between governments, telecom providers, and tech companies is essential. Protecting subsea cables isn't just a national issue; it's a global priority that requires public-private partnerships and coordinated action to safeguard the future of connectivity.

Africa needs to act NOW!

For Africa, the stakes are even higher. Subsea cable landings have proven their economic benefits, with some African nations seeing GDP per capita increase by 6.1% after new cable installations. Broadband penetration has also been linked to a 1.38% increase in GDP growth, proving that digital infrastructure is a key economic driver.

Although *seventy-four submarine cable systems* connect the continent, only 50 are currently active, with 24 still under construction. Many African nations, including Togo, Liberia, and Sierra Leone, rely on just one or two subsea cables, leaving them particularly vulnerable to internet blackouts that disrupt daily connectivity, hinder economic growth, and widen the digital divide.

The world's oceans hold critical concentration zones that amplify these tensions. The Strait of Malacca, an essential artery for global trade, processes 114 terabits of daily data traffic and has 14 cable crossings. In 2023 alone, the region reported eight security incidents, with an economic impact potential of up to \$4.5 trillion. Similarly, the Suez Canal zone hosts 15 major cables accommodating daily financial flows of \$3.2 trillion. Given its severe political risk rating and limited alternative routes, any disruption here would have catastrophic implications. With its seven strategic cables vital for Black Sea connectivity, the Turkish Straits faces a heavy Russian naval presence, which is actively monitored under NATO's protection plans, emphasizing the importance of securing these vital maritime routes.

The East Coast subsea cable system is incredibly fragile, with over 15 cables concentrated in the Red Sea – a concentration zone carrying more than 80% of Africa's internet traffic to Europe and Asia. This single point of failure poses a significant risk, emphasizing the urgent need for new routes, *improved redundancy*, and stronger network protections to safeguard Africa's digital future.

As one of Africa's leading subsea cable operators, SEACOM has seen firsthand how fragile digital infrastructure can hold back entire economies. We advocate for more investment in African-owned and managed subsea infrastructure, regional redundancy to prevent single points of failure, and stronger regulatory frameworks to ensure fair access to connectivity. Without bold action, Africa risks becoming increasingly dependent on foreign-controlled internet infrastructure, leaving the continent with little say in how its data moves, who controls it, and what protections are in place.

We assume the Internet will always be there. Still, without urgent action to protect subsea cables, we risk a future where connectivity is unstable, vulnerable to attacks, and controlled by a few influential players. Governments, industry leaders, and telecom providers must act now to safeguard the digital economy and ensure internet access remains open, secure, and resilient. Our digital world depends on it – the time to act is now!

About SEACOM

SEACOM is a diversified ICT provider of scale, offering a wide range of voice, managed networks, security, cloud, and server hosting solutions and services to businesses, network carriers, service providers and enterprises. SEACOM Digital Infrastructure owns and operates one of Africa's largest networks of ICT infrastructure, including multiple subsea cables, a resilient, continent-wide IP-MPLS Network, and Fibre networks in and across the continent. With a network spanning South Africa to Europe and Asia, SEACOM empowers African businesses to connect seamlessly and securely to global markets. Businesses partner with SEACOM's Digital Services for cybersecurity solutions, including firewalls, threat detection, cloud-based solutions and secure network infrastructure, to safeguard their digital assets.

m4a Design, Mould-making and Manufacturing Facility

At m4a, we pride ourselves on being industry leaders in plastic injection and composite thermoset moulding, extrusion, mould-making, design and prototyping. Harnessing the latest in technology, we deliver high-quality solutions that meet the exact needs of our customers. Here's how we excel in each discipline:

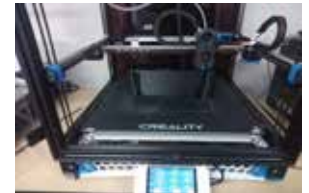
Design Services

Transform ideas into reality with our cutting-edge CAD, FEA software, and innovative design methodologies. We work closely with you to ensure designs meet your needs, seamlessly integrating from concept to production



Prototyping

Experience precision and speed with our advanced 3D printing and rapid prototyping technologies. Visualize, test, and refine your designs before production, ensuring innovation and minimizing costly errors.



Mould-making & Machining

With our CAD/CAM software and precision machinery, we create custom, durable tools tailored to your production needs. Our expert team ensures top-quality engineering, boosting efficiency and production quality.



Plastic Injection & Composite Thermoset Moulding

m4a advanced moulding facilities combine automation and precision to deliver consistent, high-quality parts—from simple components to complex assemblies. We support various materials and production volumes, perfect for projects of any scale.



Plastic Extrusion

Using advanced technology, we produce high-quality products like micro-ducts for fibre optics, corrugated pipes (up to 315mm), and high-pressure water pipes. Our expertise ensures durability and top performance.



Embracing Sustainability: Taking Carbon Back

Our Edge

- Leveraging cutting-edge technology across disciplines.
- Expertise in diverse industries.
- Customized solutions tailored to your needs.
- Dedicated to quality and customer satisfaction.
- Committed to sustainability and eco-friendly practices.



Contact us today on www.m4a.co.za to learn more about how m4a can help you achieve your manufacturing and design goals with precision, efficiency, innovation, and sustainability.

Telecoms Vandalism in South Africa: A Growing Threat to Connectivity

Telecommunications infrastructure in South Africa is under siege from rampant theft and vandalism, posing significant challenges to connectivity and economic stability. The Digital Council Africa (DCA) is actively addressing this issue through initiatives like the Equipment Monitoring page, aiming to combat equipment theft and support industry stakeholders.

The Escalating Crisis

Telecom operators face mounting losses due to infrastructure crimes. Vodacom reports annual losses of approximately R100 million from battery theft and vandalism, with repair costs for a single site reaching up to R100,000. Similarly, MTN South Africa experienced nearly 500 incidents in 2024, incurring R450 million in expenses to replace stolen batteries and repair damaged base stations. These figures highlight a tenfold increase from the previous year, underscoring the growing severity of the problem. ([MyBroadband](#))

The repercussions extend beyond financial losses. Communities, especially in remote areas, suffer from disrupted connectivity, affecting individuals, businesses, and critical services. The inability to communicate during emergencies due to vandalised infrastructure poses serious risks to public safety. ([Dailyinvestor.com](#))

Collaborative Efforts to Combat Vandalism

Recognising the need for a unified response, industry stakeholders are forming strategic partnerships. In 2022, major telecom companies—including Cell C, Vodacom, MTN SA, Telkom, and Liquid Intelligent Technologies—established the Communication Risk Information Centre (COMRiC). This non-profit organisation aims to protect network investments by addressing the surge in infrastructure vandalism through collaborative strategies and shared resources. ([itweb.co.za](#))

Additionally, MTN South Africa has partnered with the Eastern Cape Provincial Police Board and Community Police Forum to safeguard its network assets. This initiative has led to a 35% reduction in related crimes and asset losses in regions like Gauteng, demonstrating the effectiveness of coordinated efforts between corporate entities and law enforcement agencies. ([itweb.co.za](#))

DCA's Equipment Monitoring Initiative

To further support the fight against equipment theft, the DCA has launched an Equipment Monitoring page on its website. This platform serves as a centralised database where members can report stolen equipment by submitting serial numbers, aiding in the recovery process and deterring potential thieves. Members are encouraged to regularly update the status of their equipment and report any recoveries to maintain accurate records. ([digitalcouncil.africa](#))

The DCA emphasises the importance of due diligence within the industry. Companies looking to purchase second-hand equipment are advised to cross-reference serial numbers with those listed on the Equipment Monitoring page to avoid inadvertently acquiring stolen property. Regular spot checks of contractor equipment are also recommended to identify and eliminate unauthorised assets from operational environments. ([digital-council.africa](#))

A Call to Action

The DCA urges all stakeholders to actively participate in combating infrastructure vandalism. By fostering collaboration between industry players, law enforcement, and communities, and by utilising tools like the Equipment Monitoring page, South Africa can work towards a more secure and reliable telecommunications network. Collective vigilance and proactive measures are essential to protect the nation's digital infrastructure and ensure continuous connectivity for all.

For more information or to report stolen equipment, please contact Reesha Iyer at reesha@digitalcouncil.africa.

WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO



SONA Stakeholder Engagement Dinner

As part of the build-up to the State of the Nation Address (SONA) 2025 the **Department of Communications and Digital Technologies (DCDT)** in partnership with the **Digital Council Africa** hosted a Stakeholder Engagement Dinner.

The dinner was hosted at SUSA Restaurant in Cape Town on the 4th of February.



communications & digital technologies

Department:
Communications & Digital Technologies
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA





FROM THE CEO'S DESK

Dear Colleagues,

It is hard to believe that 2025 marks 15 years of existence for the Digital Council Africa (DCA).

For a decade and a half, the DCA has worked with both the public and private sectors to champion the development and deployment of digital infrastructure—educating, engaging in dialogue, and advocating for policy development while fostering collaboration across the industry. I am incredibly proud to be part of this journey and to witness the strides we have made in shaping our country's digital landscape.

I have had the privilege of seeing many new entrants into the market and watching them mature into successful enterprises. However, the progress we have achieved as a sector would not have been possible without the dedication of our members and partners, who have consistently supported our work. A special thank you to those who have walked this journey with us since the very first meeting of the 10 founding members, held in a boardroom hosted by the then relatively new company, Dark Fibre Africa.

It has been an incredible journey, and I also want to extend a special thank you to every individual who has generously given their time to support our work. A special mention goes to the leadership of the organisation, particularly Richard Came and Andile Ngcaba, who set the course for the DCA, as well as the amazing Board of Directors I have had the immense privilege of working with.

Looking ahead, 2025 promises to be an incredible year as we work alongside the Department of Communications and Digital Technologies (DCDT) to revisit existing policies and shape future frameworks that will ensure our sector continues to grow within the evolving digital landscape. Collaboration is key if we are to drive meaningful progress in the sector.

Colleagues, a well-governed environment, where the right policies enable investment, is critical to ensuring that the digital economy continues to thrive. Our President, Andile Ngcaba, has highlighted the urgent need for modernised ICT legislation that keeps pace with rapid technological advancements. The DCA remains committed to advocating for forward-thinking policies that foster digital innovation, expand infrastructure, connect the unconnected, support skills development, and create a healthy online community—ensuring Africa remains a key player in the global digital economy.

To effectively support the work of the DCDT, we are establishing Working Committees to debate sector-specific matters that require attention and to agree on policy directions that can help address industry challenges. Planning is well underway, and a call for participation has been sent out. We strongly encourage broad participation—please find a platform to engage in.

Working Groups will operate across our key sectors, including Submarine Cable Operators, Fibre Network Operators, Tower Infrastructure Providers, Data Centres & Cloud Operators, OTTs, and Manufacturers. These groups will share knowledge, identify challenges, and collaboratively develop solutions. To support these efforts, we have partnered with Primerio, a team of legal and economic experts, who will provide strategic support to our working groups. We are deeply grateful for their ongoing partnership.

As we embrace the G20 and B20, we recognise that our strength lies in connection—both in the infrastructure we build and in the relationships we foster.

With a busy year ahead, we look forward to working alongside each of you to build a more inclusive, connected, and digitally thriving Africa.

Thank you for your continued support, and we encourage you to actively participate in the DCA's initiatives, from working groups to thought leadership contributions in Conext.

Let's make 2025 a year of meaningful impact.

Juanita

What is SA Youth?

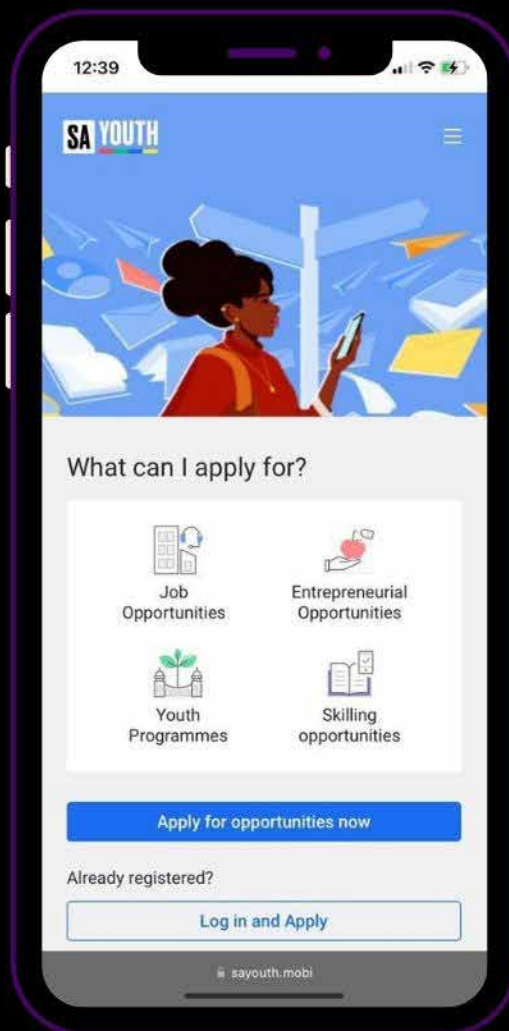
A place for all young South Africans to come to find work opportunities, learn new skills, find out how to become more employable, and get support.

How can you become part of the network?

STEP 1: Go to sayouth.mobi on your phone's browser and register. NO DATA NEEDED!
STEP 2: Answer a few questions that will help us get to know you better so that we can connect you to job opportunities that match your profile.
STEP 3: Log in regularly to search for new jobs
STEP 4: Build your profile and keep it up to date

What can you do on sayouth.mobi?

- Look for work
- Access work-seeker resources to help to become employable
- Access a list of hustling support resources to help you start or grow your own business.



Need help?

- Call us toll-free between 9am - 5pm Mon-Fri on 0800 72 72 72
- Email us at support@sayouth.org.za
- Chat to us on our Facebook page

To find out more:

- Click on the following link <https://sayouth.me/3zsKdRH> or
- Find us on [Facebook](#) and search for "What is SA Youth?" on the content tab

To access resources you will need to be registered on SAYouth.mobi first

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POPI ACT INFO

The Digital Council Africa respects your right to privacy and we aim to ensure that we comply with the POPI Act (Act 4 of 2013), which regulates the manner in which we collect, process, store, share and destroy any personal information which you have provided to us. Your personal information is strictly confidential and we will notify you immediately should we become aware of any unauthorised use, disclosure or processing of your personal information. Kindly note that you may choose to opt out at any time from all marketing and other communications by contacting Reesha Iyer at reesha@digitalcouncil.africa.

LOST AND FOUND

The Digital Council Africa has an [Equipment Monitoring page](#) on its website. The aim is to curb theft of equipment.

To view a list of stolen equipment, you can access the list [here](#).

We encourage members to regularly send through the serial numbers of stolen equipment, and inform us when equipment is recovered to ensure that the information remains up to date and accurate.

Information can be sent to Reesha Iyer at reesha@digitalcouncil.africa

In addition, it remains the responsibility of the industry to regularly do spot checks against the serial numbers of contractor equipment to ensure that stolen equipment is identified and that culprits are eradicated from the industry.

Companies wishing to purchase second hand equipment should compare the equipment serial numbers against those listed on the website.