

# 05 February 2018

## Telkom Invests in Network Optimisation with Massive MIMO Technology

Telkom has successfully concluded Africa's first demonstration of 2.3GHz LTE TDD Massive MIMO (Advanced Multiple Antenna System). This technology represents the next step in Telkom's continuing network evolution, as the company continues to optimise mobile infrastructure to better serve consumers.

Massive MIMO will enable Telkom's mobile customers to achieve data at a rate up to five times faster than current 4G technology. This will result in better throughput speeds and improved coverage, leading to a better overall experience for consumers.

"Telkom is committed to investing in our network infrastructure so that we continue to improve the user experience and offer the best products on the market. This trial marks the first step towards advanced 4G networks and 5G networks," said Attila Vitai, CEO of Telkom Consumer.

The demonstration was based on 2.3GHz TDD 20MHz bandwidth on Telkom's network. The demo, conducted by Huawei, reached 909 Mbps at peak rate, showing improved spectrum efficiency and network coverage. Although 4G networks have already delivered significantly higher data rates and a whole new range of services and applications for consumers, the demand for data continues to grow. This is where Massive MIMO can assist networks.

Veni Shone, President of Huawei's LTE Solution said: "It was a very exciting opportunity to work with Telkom to demonstrate this brand new wireless technology. Although services nowadays are more diverse and require higher network capacity to improve the user's experience; we were able to deliver capacity using extremely simplified network architecture. Massive MIMO is definitely playing a significant role in it to meet future network requirements."

Telkom has already deployed LTE, LTE-A and 4 by 4 MIMO technology which enable our customers to get speeds of up to 600 Mbps. The next step is to introduce Massive MIMO technology which will result in significant increase in throughput speeds. Plans are already afoot for the deployment of massive MIMO this year.

Massive MIMO technology will enable Telkom to reuse existing sites to meet high data demand at a lower cost, rather than having to acquire and build new sites in dense areas. In turn, this will enable Telkom to offer larger data packages and more services at a reduced cost.

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**ABOUT TELKOM:**

Telkom is a leading information and communications technology services provider in South Africa. We had consolidated operating revenue of R41 billion and normalised profit after tax of R3 907 million for the year ended 31 March 2017. Total assets amounted to R48.0 billion and equity attributable to the owners of Telkom to R27.6 billion as of 31 March 2017

As of 31 March 2017, we had approximately 3.0 million telephone access lines in service and 1,329,450 ports connected via MSAN access. We offer business, residential and payphone customers a wide range of services and products, including:

- fixed-line retail voice services using PSTN (Public Switched Telephone Network) lines, including ISDN (Integrated Services Digital Network) lines, and the sale of subscription based value-added voice services and calling plans;
- fixed-line customer premises equipment rental and sales services both voice and data needs and these include PABX, Computers, Routers, Modems, Telephone handsets and other ancillary equipment;
- interconnection services, including terminating and transiting traffic from South African mobile operators, as well as from international operators and transiting traffic from mobile to international destinations;
- fixed-line data services, including domestic and international data transmission services, such as point-to-point leased lines, ADSL (Asymmetrical Digital Subscriber Line) services, packet-based services, managed data networking services and internet access and related information technology services;
- Data Centre Operations includes e-commerce, application service provider, hosting, data storage, e-mail and security services;
- W-CDMA (Wideband Code Division Multiple Access), a 3G next generation network, including fixed voice services, data services and nomadic voice services;
- mobile communication services, including voice services, data services and handset sales through our mobile brand called Telkom Mobile;
- information technology services including converged communication, IT service solutions, application solutions, IT hardware and software and industrial technology service sales locally, in seven African countries, the UK and Dubai through Business Connexion Group; and other services including directory services, through Trudon (Pty) Ltd, wireless data services, through Swiftnet (Pty) Ltd.
- Convergence is one of our key strategic initiatives in building a sustainable future for Telkom. We will lead the provision of converged services in South Africa in support of our mission statement: Seamlessly connecting people to a better life.