

# USE OF WIRELESS INFRASTRUCTURE FOR ACCLERATING UNIVERSAL SERVICE PROVISION IN NIGERIA

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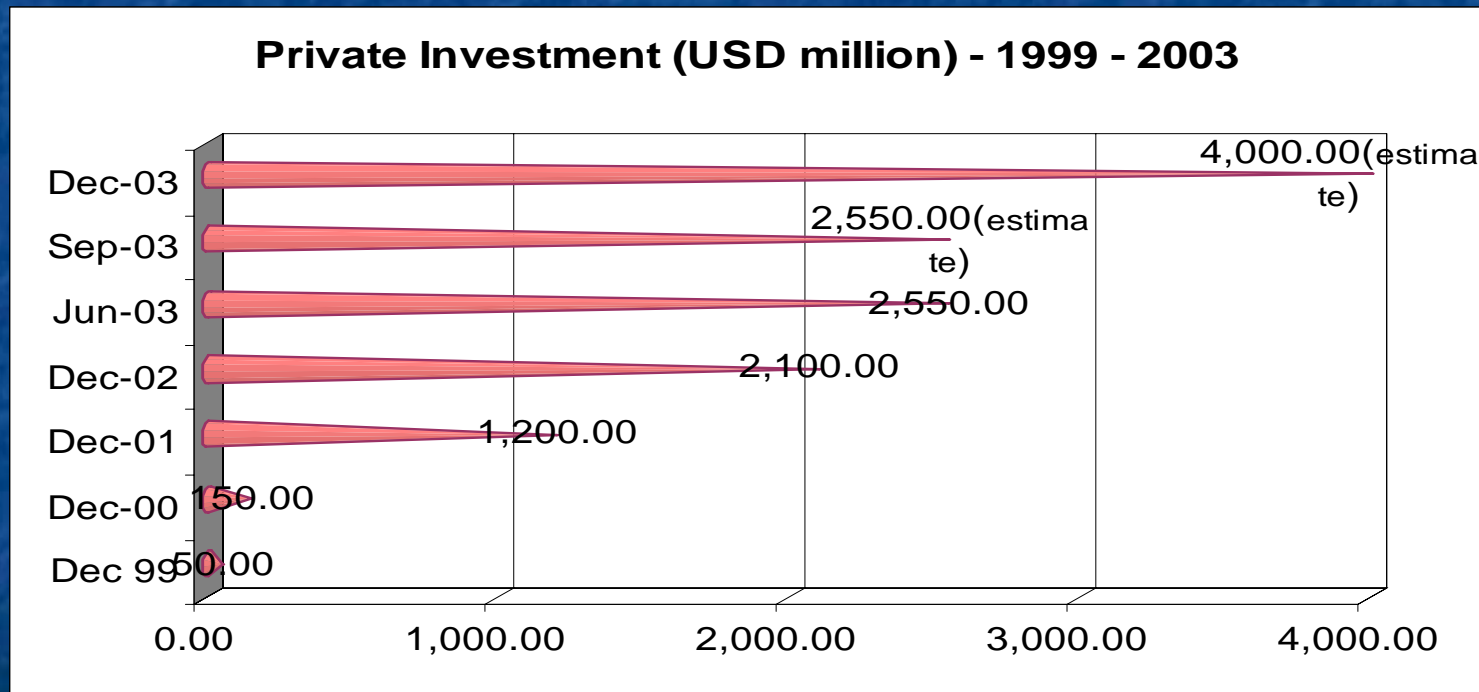
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# Status of ICT Infrastructure in Nigeria

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	Dec-00	Dec-02	Jun-03	Dec-03	Jul-04
Number of Connected Fixed Lines	450,000	702,000	724,790	850,000	1.1m
Number of Connected Digital Mobile Lines	None	1.6m	2.05m	3.1m	5.01m
Number of National Carriers	1	2	2	2	2
Number of Operating ISPs	18	30	30	35	35
Number of Active Licensed Fixed Line Operators	9	16	19	30	30
Number of Licensed Mobile Operators	1	4	4	4	4

# Status of ICT Infrastructure in Nigeria:



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- Telecoms penetration has improved significantly from 400,000 lines in 1996 to 6.1 million lines today due to:
  - Independent regulatory body
  - Private sector participation
  - Broadened competition
- Teledensity improved from 0.4% in 1996 to 5.0% in March 2004 due to fast deployment of wireless technology
- Several towns and cities estimated at 48% of the population and 18% of the land mass have potential access
- Grown from one player (monopoly) to multiple active players

# Status of ICT Infrastructure in Nigeria:

- Nigeria's immediate requirement for telecommunications, and other ICT facilities is enormous and the required capital and time investment needed to complete a full deployment using wire lines are daunting
- Wireless systems therefore offer quicker solutions to providing network access than traditional copper lines and therefore more desirable
- Digital Wireless and Mobile Communications Systems can help Nigeria leapfrog into the global village as an active member

# Status of ICT Infrastructure in Nigeria:

- There is no doubt that the Internet is one quick way of bridging the gap between the information haves and have-nots and narrowing what is, now generally referred to as the digital divide
- Fixed and mobile wireless systems offer key advantages in making Internet services universally available because of the speed of deployment
- With wireless systems, strong networks can be rolled out quickly

# The Way Forward:

- Nigeria still has a lot to do to create the necessary infrastructure necessary for achieving the USP goals. We must therefore continue to encourage private investment through the implementation of progressive sector policies.
- An initiative code-named the **WiN Project** or Wire Nigeria Project, which aims at ensuring that all the States of the federation are linked to a national optic fiber cable backbone infrastructure has been launched.

# TECHNOLOGY OPTIONS

- GSM has dominated mobile deployment
- CDMA has dominated fixed services deployment
- Nigerian fixed wireless operators have adopted the CDMA 2000 1X systems and are able to offer high speed internet and voice on the same platform
- Spectrum reserved in 450 MHz band for deployment in rural areas

End

Thank you