

WIOCC Partners with Global Crossing to Expand Global Footprint

Nairobi, 23rd May 2011: WIOCC, the largest shareholder in the highest-capacity, submarine cable system serving Africa, today announced the interconnection of its network with that of Global Crossing (NASDAQ: GLBC), a leading global IP solutions provider, in order to meet the rapid growth in demand for cost-effective, high-quality, end-to-end connectivity between Africa and the rest of the world.

This strategic agreement will enable WIOCC to further extend its customers' connectivity in countries where it doesn't have coverage by being part of the Global Crossing Tier 1 MPLS network. In addition to expanding WIOCC's reach, the relationship will increase flexibility and provide significantly reduced transit charges for customer terminations. It also enhances Global Crossing's ability to deliver high-performance Tier 1 Internet connectivity into carrier facilities and enterprise locations throughout the east and southern Africa region.

"This strategic relationship with Global Crossing, with its comprehensive global network reach, significantly improves our ability to deliver end-to-end service to WIOCC customers in Africa and the rest of the world," said WIOCC CEO Chris Wood. "Our 30 percent stake in EASSy cable system, which has landing stations from South Africa to Port Sudan, gives us extensive reach along Africa's eastern seaboard, and our onward connectivity to Europe and beyond is provided through multiple interconnect points with other fibre-optic systems. We already offer the only direct fibre-optic route between east Africa and Europe. With this new agreement in place, we now have the capability to extend our reach to even more points on the globe."

WIOCC is the largest shareholder in EASSy, the 10,000km, 4.72Tbps subsea fibre-optic cable that runs along the east coast of Africa. Global Crossing reaches more than 700 cities in more than 70 countries across North America, Latin America and Europe. The two networks are interconnected in London, offering both service providers improved reach from their respective markets.

"Our shareholders own terrestrial networks that interconnect 20 African countries over more than 50,000km of optical fibre, serving more than 400 African locations," added WIOCC's COO Ryan Sher.

"EASSy represents the majority of the international capacity available on Africa's east coast," said Habib Issa, Global Crossing's head of Carrier Sales for South Europe, Middle East and Africa. "WIOCC has unparalleled reach throughout eastern and southern Africa, and will play an important role in improving Internet connectivity throughout this region."

With African consumers and businesses increasingly demanding improved access to data-rich services and Internet content originating outside the continent, the WIOCC/Global Crossing relationship benefits African telcos and ISPs by improving their ability to deliver cost-effective, high-speed connectivity with the rest of the world. International carriers looking for better connectivity into Africa can now take advantage of Global Crossing's network as a convenient access mechanism for exchanging traffic directly with eastern and southern Africa using the WIOCC-EASSy cable and network.

- Ends -

About WIOCC (www.wiocc.net)

WIOCC is revolutionising global connectivity to 20 countries across eastern and southern Africa. For the first time, telecommunications carriers in the world's key commercial and financial centres can now provide their customers with low-cost and reliable high-speed telecoms services to these regions of Africa.

WIOCC has transformed the business model for international telcos to interconnect with African providers. It owns 30% of the 10,000km fibre-optic submarine cable, EASSy (East African Submarine System), which remains the largest system serving Africa with recent technology developments increasing its design capacity to 4.72 Terabits per second. Landing points in every coastal country between South Africa and Sudan, as well as in Madagascar and the Comores, enable EASSy to deliver the most extensive reach along the East African seaboard. Onward global connectivity is provided through multiple interconnect points with other fibre-optic systems, and EASSy continues to offer the only direct fibre-optic route to Europe. More than 25 telecommunications operators mainly from Africa, and a number of global operators investing in EASSy, have already activated capacity on the system.

WIOCC's shareholders' own terrestrial fibre networks interconnecting 20 African countries over more than 50,000km of optical fibre, serving 400+ African locations. Partnerships with global operators enable the provision of seamless global connectivity to/from 100 cities in 29 countries in Europe and more than 700 cities in 70 countries globally, WIOCC is thereby enabling the affordable delivery of reliable, high-speed internet access to African users, as well as improved international voice and data services.

WIOCC is an African carriers' carrier, jointly owned by 14 major African telecom operators and with financial backing from 5 international development financial institutions - namely International Finance Corporation (IFC), Africa Development Bank (AfDB), French Development Bank (AFD), German Development Bank (KfW) and European Investment Bank (EIB).

For further information please contact:

WIOCC Media enquiries:

Adrian Linden

T: +44 (0)7919 967 865

E: adrian.linden@btopenworld.com