

100 LEADING TELECOMS & DIGITAL ECONOMY PERSONALITIES IN NIGERIA





Forward

I am deeply honored to have been invited by the National Executive Council of the Association of Telecommunications Companies of Nigeria (ATCON) to write the foreword for this prestigious industry publication, highlighting 100 leading telecoms and digital economy personalities in Nigeria. I extend my sincere gratitude to ATCON for this privilege.

The Association of Telecommunications Companies of Nigeria (ATCON) played a strategic and pivotal role in the liberalization of Nigeria's telecommunications industry, a development that has been instrumental in shaping the country's economy. Today, the industry contributes an impressive 15% to Nigeria's GDP. Without ATCON's efforts, Nigeria's telecommunications landscape might have mirrored that of Ethiopia, which has only recently begun to open up its sector.

As we celebrate the remarkable contributions of Nigeria's top 100 telecoms and digital economy personalities, we honor the innovators, and pioneers who have transformed the nation's technological landscape.

From revolutionizing the way we communicate to driving economic growth and development, these individuals have demonstrated exceptional leadership, vision, and expertise in their respective fields ¹.

The impact of their work is evident in the rapid growth of Nigeria's digital economy, which has attracted significant foreign direct investment and created thousands of jobs ².

As we recognize these outstanding personalities, we also acknowledge the critical role they play in shaping Nigeria's digital future. Their innovative spirit, commitment to excellence, and passion for driving positive change will undoubtedly continue to inspire and empower future generations of tech leaders.

"Despite facing numerous challenges, setbacks, and frustrations, these individuals have demonstrated remarkable resilience and perseverance. This publication is ATCON's tribute to their dedication and hard work. We acknowledge their contributions, celebrate their achievements, and commend their unwavering commitment to excellence."

Congratulations to the top 100 telecoms and digital economy personalities in Nigeria. your contributions are truly making a difference.

Senator, Ikra Aliyu Bilbis
Chairman, Senate Committee on Communications





Preface

The Nigerian telecommunications and digital economy sector has witnessed unprecedented growth and transformation over the years, driven by the vision, innovation, and leadership of exceptional individuals. This publication shines the spotlight on 100 leading personalities who have made significant contributions to the development and advancement of the sector.

From pioneering entrepreneurs and CEOs of major telecoms operators to regulators, policymakers, and digital innovators, this compilation celebrates the achievements and impact of these trailblazers. Their stories, experiences, and insights offer valuable lessons and inspiration for the next generation of leaders and stakeholders in the Nigerian telecoms and digital economy ecosystem.

This publication is a testament to the power of human ingenuity, perseverance, and collaboration in shaping the future of our digital world.

I have the honour of presenting to you the visionary leaders that are propelling Nigeria's technological advancement in the Fourth Industrial Revolution. This industry book spotlights 100 leaders and innovators revolutionizing the country's telecom and digital economy landscapes. Their spectacular achievements and transformative capabilities are celebrated within these pages.

Note: The featured leaders are listed in no specific order, highlighting the collective impact of their contributions."

I particularly like to extend gratitude and appreciation to the immense work put into the realisation of this book by ATCON Secretariat led by our amiable Executive Secretary, Ajibola Olude

Tony Izuagbe Emoekpere
8th National President ATCON





Tony Izuagbe Emoekpere

President Association of Telecommunications Companies of Nigeria (ATCON); CEO Anchor Telecoms

As President of the Association of Telecommunications Companies of Nigeria (ATCON), Tony Izuagbe Emoekpere leads Africa's largest telecom market with a focus on collaboration and innovation. His tenure since 2023 has been defined by advancing Nigeria's digital economy through strategic advocacy for broadband expansion, regulatory alignment, and infrastructure sustainability.

Engineering Foundations

A graduate of Electrical/Electronic Engineering from Obafemi Awolowo University, Emoekpere began his career at **Linkserve Ltd**, Nigeria's pioneering ISP, where he engineered radio links for enterprises during the country's nascent internet era. His technical acumen later propelled him to **MTN Nigeria** during its 2001 launch, where he oversaw the deployment of the company's first base stations in the South-West and managed landmark projects like the Marshal Plan Site Build.

Anchor Telecoms: A Hub of TMT Convergence

In 2005, Emoekpere founded Anchor Telecoms, a company that has grown into a pan-African leader in telecom infrastructure services. Under his leadership, Anchor Telecoms has expanded its vision to embrace the convergence of technology, media, and telecoms (TMT), launching strategic subsidiaries that drive innovation:

- **MangoNet Integrated Services:** A subsidiary delivering cutting-edge fiber-to-the-home (FTTH) and wireless internet solutions, bridging Nigeria's connectivity gaps.
- **Anchor Digital Media:** A media arm producing localized TV content and streaming services, amplifying Nigerian stories through technology-driven platforms.

Today, Anchor Telecoms operates in 5 African nations, with ongoing expansions into Kenya, Ethiopia, and the UK. Emoekpere's focus on TMT convergence ensures the company remains at the forefront of cross-sector innovation.

Leadership at ATCON

Elected ATCON President in 2023, Emoekpere has prioritized:

1. **Policy Alignment:** Advocating for Nigeria's National Broadband Plan 2020–2025 and fostering partnerships to resolve infrastructure bottlenecks like right-of-way disputes.
2. **Sector Resilience:** Balancing operator viability and consumer affordability through pragmatic tariff reforms.
3. **Talent Development:** Collaborating with institutions like the Digital Bridge Institute to equip Nigeria's youth with future-ready digital skills.

Philosophy: Collaboration Over Individuality

Emoekpere's leadership ethos centers on collective progress. "The telecom sector thrives when stakeholders unite," he asserts. "Our goal is not just connectivity, but creating ecosystems where technology empowers businesses, media enriches culture, and infrastructure drives inclusion."

Innovations on the Horizon

Under his guidance, Anchor Telecoms is pioneering:

- **AI-Driven Network Optimization:** Enhancing service reliability and coverage in underserved regions.
- **Digital Content Hubs:** Partnerships to democratize access to educational and entrepreneurial resources.
- **Sustainable Infrastructure:** Green towers and energy-efficient solutions to reduce operational costs and environmental impact.

Beyond Work

A devoted family man and mentor, Emoekpere finds balance in reading, cycling, and supporting tech startups. His story reflects a belief in Nigeria's potential: "When technology, media, and telecoms converge, we don't just build networks—we build nations."



ATCON
Association of Telecommunications
Companies of Nigeria



Dr Aminu Maida

Executive Vice Chairman/ CEO, Nigerian Communications Commission

Currently serving as the Executive Vice Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC), Dr. Maida plays a pivotal role in shaping Nigeria's telecommunications landscape. Under his leadership, the NCC continues to advance connectivity, foster innovation, and promote a competitive and inclusive telecommunications industry.

Dr. Maida's career includes significant contributions to leading global organizations such as British Telecom, Cisco Systems, and EE Ltd. He was also a pioneering engineering team member at UbiquiSys Ltd, a groundbreaking small-cell technology startup acquired by Cisco Systems in 2013.

Prior to his current role, Dr. Maida was the Executive Director of Technology and Operations at the Nigeria Inter-Bank Settlement Systems PLC (NIBSS). There, he spearheaded the modernization of Nigeria's central digital payments infrastructure, reinforcing its role as a critical enabler of the country's financial ecosystem.

Dr. Maida holds a Ph.D. in Electrical and Electronic Engineering from the University of Bath, an MEng in Information Systems Engineering from Imperial College London, and a Postgraduate Diploma in Entrepreneurship from the Cambridge Judge Business School.





Engr. Abraham Oshadami

**Executive Commissioner (Technical Services),
Nigerian Communications Commission**

A native of Kogi State, Engr. Abraham Oshadami was nominated as an Executive Commissioner of the NCC by President Bola Tinubu, GCFR on the 23rd of February 2024 and confirmed by the Senate on the 21st of May 2024.

Following his graduation with a Bachelor of Science (BSc.) in Electrical Engineering with First Class Honours from the University of Ibadan, Ibadan, in Oyo State in 1994, Engr. Abraham Oshadami proceeded to Port Harcourt where he joined Unisys Inlaks Computers Limited as a National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) member for his primary assignment. His superlative performance led to him to being retained as an employee of the company, rising to the position of Acting Zonal Manager for the South-South region of Nigeria where he led in the design, installation and maintenance of ICT systems, networking and system troubleshooting and repairs.

Engr. Oshadami then joined the Nigerian Communications Commission in 2004 as a Manager in the Engineering Directorate, the hitherto department charged with the administration and management of radio spectrum for the country. In his new position, Engr. Oshadami was recognized with the Engineering Directorate's Best Staff Merit Award for two years running (2007 and 2008).

Serving in various roles including telecommunications regulations, spectrum management, information technology and traffic & network optimization, Engr. Oshadami has rose through the ranks to the position of a Director in the NCC, heading multiple units and departments along the way, including the Spectrum Database Unit, the Information Technology Department and, most recently, the Spectrum Administration Department.

Notably, as Head - Information Technology (HIT), Engr. Oshadami was honored with the CIO (Chief Information Officer) of the Year Award for Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) in November 2021.

Over the course of his career, Engr. Oshadami has furthered his education at the Lagos Business School, Digital Bridge Institute and HP Education Services in Nigeria. He has attended training courses at the African Advanced Level Telecommunications Institute (AFRALTI) in Kenya, Tadiran Electronics in Israel, Neotelis in Canada, IP3 Training and the United States Telecommunications Training Institute (USTTI) in the United States, and at the United Kingdom Telecommunications Academy (UKTA) and London Corporate Training in the United Kingdom.

His project works include the design and construction of a Transformerless 180V DC Stabilizer with Timer for Medical Applications, the supervision of the local manufacturing of recharge cards, and the coordination of 5G Spectrum Auctions for the NCC leading to deployment of broadband in Nigeria.

Engr. Sunday Abraham Oshadami has held key international roles, including Chairmanship of the African Telecommunications Union's Emerging Technologies Working Group and Nigeria's delegation to ITU's WRC-23. A Vice Chairman in ITU advisory groups, he is also a member of various professional bodies including COREN and NSE. He is happily married with children.





Rimini Haraya Makama

**Executive Commissioner - Stakeholder Management,
The Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC)**

Before assuming her current role in the Nigerian Communications Commission, Makama served as the Government Affairs Director for MEA Emerging Markets at Microsoft. In this role, she played a key part in shaping policies that enabled the public sector across MEA to adopt cloud technology. She also led efforts to create a digital transformation framework for governments, positioning Microsoft as a leader in public sector technology.

During her tenure at Microsoft, Makama represented the company's interests on the Digital Economy Task Force of the US Chamber of Commerce and the SMART Africa Alliance. She is a trusted voice on Artificial Intelligence (AI) policy and ethics, notably as an AI policy speaker at the UNESCO Forum on Artificial Intelligence in 2018. Her contributions have been celebrated with the Be the Change Award.

Earlier in her career, Makama worked as Communications Director for West Africa at Africa Practice. She worked closely with major corporations, including Uber, PayPal, CNN, Google, Bloomberg LP, Sage VIP, Actis West Africa, and the African Union, aligning their strategic communication needs with government stakeholders. Her work with BlackBerry in Nigeria is particularly impactful, driving its transition from a new entrant to a market leader. Prior to this, she served as Principal Legal Assistant at the Office of Legal Affairs, INTERPOL, in Lyon, France.

Makama writes frequently on technology and AI, with her work featured in The Guardian, Financial Times, and Punch newspapers. She holds an LLM in International Law and World Order from the University of Reading, an LLB from the University of Jos, and has been called to the Nigerian Bar.





Karl Toriola

Chief Executive Officer (CEO), MTN Nigeria Communications Plc

As the CEO of MTN Nigeria Communications Plc since March 2021, Karl Olutokun Toriola has played a pivotal role in advancing digital innovation in Nigeria's telecommunications sector. Under his leadership, MTN Nigeria has spearheaded the launch of 5G technology, significantly enhancing internet speed and connectivity nationwide. He has also championed the integration of artificial intelligence (AI) and blockchain into the company's service offerings, fostering a seamless digital experience for customers.

Karl's tenure has seen MTN Nigeria evolve from a traditional telecom provider into a key enabler of Nigeria's digital economy. His strategic foresight has positioned MTN at the forefront of fintech innovation with the launch of MoMo Payment Service Bank (PSB), extending financial inclusion to millions of unbanked Nigerians. Additionally, he has driven the adoption of smart infrastructure, data-driven customer engagement, and digital literacy initiatives to bridge Nigeria's digital divide.

Future Innovation and Creativity Plans

MTN Nigeria, under Karl's leadership, is committed to sustaining digital transformation through:

- Expanding 5G Coverage:** Accelerating the deployment of 5G networks to enhance connectivity and support emerging technologies like IoT, AI, and cloud computing.
- Deepening Financial Inclusion:** Strengthening MoMo PSB services and introducing new fintech solutions to promote cashless transactions.
- Investment in AI & Automation:** Leveraging AI-powered analytics for improved customer experience and operational efficiency.
- Support for Tech Startups:** Collaborating with Nigerian entrepreneurs and tech hubs to drive local innovation.
- Green Technology Initiatives:** Implementing eco-friendly telecom infrastructure to reduce carbon footprint and promote sustainable digital transformation.

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Initiatives

MTN Nigeria uplifts communities through CSR initiatives, including youth scholarships, ICT training, healthcare support, disability empowerment, disaster relief efforts and numerous others.

Corporate Profile

MTN Nigeria Communications Plc is the leading provider of telecommunications services in Nigeria, serving over 80 million subscribers. With a strong focus on digital transformation, financial inclusion, and connectivity, MTN Nigeria continues to redefine communication and technology in Africa.

Corporate Advertisement

"Bridging Gaps, Powering Progress!"

Experience seamless connectivity, faster internet, and smarter solutions with MTN Nigeria. From 5G innovation to financial inclusion, we are building a future where possibilities are limitless. Join the Yello Revolution—MTN, Everywhere You Go!

Challenges and Future Directions in Innovation

Nigeria's ICT sector faces key challenges, including high operational costs due to power supply issues and import tariffs, regulatory uncertainty that discourages investment, rising cybersecurity threats, and a persistent digital divide that limits internet access in rural areas.

To address these challenges, stakeholders should foster public-private partnerships, expand broadband infrastructure, strengthen cybersecurity regulations, and invest in digital literacy programs to empower Nigeria's youth.

Under Toriola's visionary leadership, MTN Nigeria remains committed to shaping the future of digital innovation, driving progress, and ensuring every Nigerian is connected to limitless opportunities.





Obafemi Banigbe

Chief Executive Officer, 9mobile

With over two decades of experience, Obafemi Banigbe is a visionary leader in digital transformation, strategic operations, and entrepreneurial excellence. His expertise in telecommunications, technology, and media has positioned him as a key figure in Africa's digital evolution. Obafemi holds a Bachelor of Engineering in Electrical and Computer Engineering from the Federal University of Technology, Minna, Nigeria. He refined his leadership skills through the Ericsson Management Development Program and played a pivotal role in network infrastructure development at Ericsson Sub-Saharan Africa Market Unit.

His executive leadership roles include: Director of Operations, Celtel Nigeria (now Airtel): Led operational efficiency and network expansion. Chief Operations Officer, Millicom Ghana: Ensured seamless service delivery and operational excellence. Interim CEO & CTO, Millicom Ghana & Tanzania: Spearheaded strategic initiatives for business growth. Managing Partner & Co-Founder, Silver Rock Technology Services, Ghana: Provided innovative tech solutions and consultancy. President and Co-Founder, TV Anywhere Africa: Expanded digital entertainment access through IPTV and content aggregation. Obafemi continues to shape Africa's telecom and fintech industries through advisory roles, including:

- Non-Executive Director, Amplitude Telecoms
- Advisory Board Member, Telecel Group & Nsano Group
- Strategic Advisor, Kirusa Group (New Jersey, USA)



Future Plans for Innovation & Creativity

Expanding Data Access: Strengthening Nigeria's digital landscape through widespread data availability.

Innovative Services & Solutions: Delivering relevant, sustainable services to enhance customer lifestyles.

Enhanced Cybersecurity: Implementing advanced measures to protect user data and mitigate cyber threats.

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)

9mobile is deeply committed to social responsibility and community development. Key initiatives include:

- The Hack by 9mobile – A platform fostering tech-driven solutions for socio-economic challenges.
- 9mobile Health Talk Series – Educating communities on healthcare and wellness.
- Career Counselling & Future CEO Initiative – Mentoring young leaders and fostering leadership development.
- 9mobile/ALX SME Partnership – Supporting small businesses with digital tools and training.
- 9mobile Digital Bichi Emirate Entrepreneurship Initiative – Promoting digital entrepreneurship in local communities.

Corporate profile

We're not just a network. We're the future. Stay connected. Stay ahead. Stay with 9mobile.

Corporate Advertisement

9mobile: Powering Nigeria's Digital Future

At 9mobile, we redefine connectivity with cutting-edge technology and superior data services. Whether streaming or growing your business, we keep you ahead.

Join millions of Nigerians who trust 9mobile.



Mohamad Darwish

**Executive Vice President, CEO, and Co-Founder
IHS Towers**

Mohamad Darwish has over 20 years of experience working in the telecommunications sector and is IHS Nigeria's Chief Executive Officer, overseeing IHS Towers largest market.

Mohamad Darwish has worked in various finance and technical functions and served as the Business Development Director and Deputy CEO before becoming the CEO of IHS Nigeria.

Mohamad is responsible for leading the team that is committed to growing IHS Nigeria's operations and further strengthening its position as the leading tower company in Nigeria, he oversees the development of the IHS Nigeria strategic plan, the rollout of new sales strategies, and manages various key relationships with clients, regulators, ministries and NGOs.

As a member of the IHS Finance and Banking, Risk Management, Ethics, and Compliance committees, Mohamad also focuses on defining IHS Towers strategic plans on a group level while ensuring the company's full compliance with international standards and best practices.

Mohamad is deeply committed to initiatives and programs and that position African countries globally, inspire long-term economic growth, and promote sustainable business behaviour.

Mohamad holds a Master of Engineering in Applied Operation Research from Cornell University, Master of Business Administration with Honours from Rollins College, and a Bachelor of Electrical Engineering from the American University of Beirut.





Engr. Abiodun Omoniye

Group Managing Director and CEO of VDT Communications Limited and Bitflux Communications Limited

Engr. Abiodun Omoniye, the Group Managing Director/CEO of VDT Communications Limited and Bitflux Communications Limited, is a key figure in Nigeria's telecommunications industry. His leadership has been instrumental in transforming broadband connectivity and digital innovation across several economic sectors. Abiodun's career began after completing his NYSC at Bayero University, Kano. He started as a trainee Computer Engineer at Chams Nigeria Limited before founding BITCOM Systems Limited in 1989, focused on personal computer supply and software development. In 2001, he restructured the business to form VDT Communications, which has since become a leader in broadband services. In 2014, Abiodun launched Bitflux Communications, Nigeria's first Wireless Wholesale Access Service Provider, further boosting digital access.

Future Plans for Innovation and Creativity

Abiodun is committed to enhancing Nigeria's digital economy. VDT Communications is expanding its fiber optic infrastructure, including a recent launch in Marina, Lagos, to improve internet access. The company is also deploying solar-powered Points of Presence (POPs) to increase network reliability while minimizing carbon emissions. Additionally, VDT is working on AI-driven network optimization tools to improve service quality. By integrating data analytics and IoT solutions, VDT aims to drive digital transformation in sectors like banking, education, and manufacturing.

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Initiatives

Under Abiodun's leadership, VDT Communications has executed several CSR projects, such as: ICT Support: Providing free internet in underserved areas and equipping ICT centers in schools. Scholarships: Awarding academic scholarships to students in science and technology. Women in Tech: Supporting girls in ICT through mentorship programs. Community Development: Partnering with local organizations to boost digital literacy.

Corporate Profile

VDT Communications Limited is a premier broadband service provider in Nigeria, delivering reliable high-speed connectivity solutions to enterprises, government agencies, and SMEs. It holds ISO 9001:2015 and ISO 20000-1:2018 certifications for quality service management. Bitflux Communications Limited is Nigeria's first Wireless Wholesale Access Service Provider, playing a key role in expanding broadband access nationwide.

Corporate Advertisement

Stay Connected, Stay Ahead with VDT Communications! Experience seamless, ultra-fast broadband. Whether at home or work, our high-speed internet services keep you connected and ahead. Join the future of digital innovation today!

Challenges to Innovation and Future Directions

Nigeria's telecom sector faces challenges, such as: High operational costs: Rising tariffs and infrastructure costs limit affordability. Regulatory issues: Policy inconsistencies hinder market expansion. Limited broadband access: Many rural areas remain underserved. Abiodun advocates for: Collaborative efforts between the government and private sectors. Regulatory reforms to encourage investment and competition. Sustainable energy solutions to reduce costs and enhance reliability. Abiodun Omoniye's leadership continues to drive the transformation of Nigeria's digital landscape, paving the way for a future where technology empowers businesses and communities alike.





Mr. Mohammed Rudman

CEO, Internet Exchange Point of Nigeria (IXPN)

Mr. Muhammed Rudman, the CEO of the Internet Exchange Point of Nigeria (IXPN), is a visionary leader committed to fostering creativity and innovation in the digital space. Under his leadership, IXPN has transformed Nigeria's internet infrastructure, increasing the domestication of internet traffic from nearly 0% to about 50-60 percent. By interconnecting major service providers, ISPs, and global content giants like Google, Meta, Amazon, and Netflix, IXPN has significantly improved internet efficiency and reduced costs for Nigerians. Rudman fosters creativity by promoting work-life balance at IXPN, reducing office workdays to three and allowing remote work. His policies create a stress-free, collaborative environment where innovation thrives.

Future Plans on Innovation and Creativity

Looking ahead, Mr Rudman envisions a more technologically advanced IXPN. His focus is on automation, streamlining the company's processes to enhance efficiency and scalability. IXPN has already begun automating configuration procedures to simplify customer onboarding and traffic exchange. Furthermore, IXPN plans to invest in cutting-edge technologies that will drive the next phase of digital innovation in Nigeria. The company will also continue to upskill its workforce through regular training and knowledge-sharing programs. To support employee well-being and productivity, IXPN is planning to build a new office space and staff quarters, ensuring workers have minimal commuting time and a conducive work environment.

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Initiatives

IXPN has made significant contributions to the community through various CSR projects.

These include: Sponsorship of events that promote creativity and technological innovation. Donations of equipment to schools in Lagos and other cities. Implementation of power solutions for Kano State Library. Provision of free internet access to the Kano State Library to enhance digital literacy. These initiatives reflect IXPN's commitment to fostering digital growth and knowledge-sharing across Nigeria.

Corporate Profile

IXPN is Nigeria's premier internet exchange point, interconnecting ISPs, telecommunications companies, and content providers to facilitate seamless internet traffic exchange within the country. By improving local traffic routing, IXPN has reduced dependency on international bandwidth, lowering costs and enhancing speed for Nigerian internet users.

Corporate Advertisement

IXPN: Powering Nigeria's Digital Future. Join the revolution in internet connectivity with IXPN—Nigeria's leading internet exchange point. We connect service providers, drive innovation, and ensure seamless data flow. Experience faster, more reliable internet with IXPN today! Despite its successes, IXPN faces challenges that hinder creativity and innovation. These include the high cost of adopting new technologies, resistance to change in traditional business models, and occasional inefficiencies associated with implementing new ideas. Additionally, some organizations hesitate to innovate due to the fear of failure and financial losses. Mr. Muhammed Rudman champions continuous innovation, urging organizations to embrace learning, adaptability, and experimentation to stay ahead, even when results aren't immediate.





Engr. Ikechukwu Nnamani

**Chief Executive Officer of Digital Realty Nigeria
(formerly Medallion Data Centres Limited).**

Engr. Ikechukwu Nnamani is the Chief Executive Officer of Digital Realty Nigeria (formerly Medallion Data Centres Limited). For over 17 years under his leadership the Digital Realty datacenter in Lagos is rated the most interconnected facility in the West African sub-region being the number 1 peering point for the region and boosting all submarine cables in the region, long distance providers, metro fiber providers, mobile services providers, fixed services providers, OTT providers, Internet Exchange, VAS providers, and global Tier1 service providers, amongst others. Over 68% of all internet traffic exchanged at the Nigeria Internet Exchange takes place at Digital Realty's datacenter in Lagos, Nigeria. Digital Realty Nigeria is the hosting site for the 2AFRICA Submarine Cable in Lagos, hosting the PFE Module for 2AFRICA Submarine Cable as well as the support datacenter infrastructure for the SLTEs and other critical network infrastructure.

Engr. Nnamani has also promoted the establishment telecom infrastructure in several African countries including Ghana, Togo, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Ivory Coast, Senegal, Kenya, Uganda, Botswana, and Angola amongst others.

Engr. Nnamani has won over 50 national and international awards for his contribution to the growth of telecoms and ICT industry both personally and companies he is affiliated with. He was recently awarded the 2024 Lifetime Achievement Award for pioneering the growth of datacenter business in Nigeria at the 2024 Beacon of ICT Award, 2024 Datacenter Leader of the Year at the Tech Innovation Award, 2024 ICT Entrepreneur Personality of the Year and 2024 ICT Man of the Year at the African Digital Awards amongst others.

He was also awarded the 2023 TIA Datacenter Lifetime Achievement Award at the Tech Innovation Award, 2023 Most Innovative Datacenter Personality of the Year at the Titans of Tech Award, 2023 Datacenter ICON Award at the 7th African Digital Economy Awards, the 2023 AfriTech Alliance Man of the Year, the 2023 Techlife Iconic Man of the Year.

Engr. Nnamani holds a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Nigeria, Nsukka and a Master's degree in Mechanical Engineering from Tennessee State University, Nashville, USA.





Dr. Tunde Coker

CEO, Open Access Data Centres

Dr. Tunde Coker is the CEO of Open Access Data Centres (OADC), the connectivity arm of West Indian Ocean Cable Company (WIOCC), which started as a connectivity company 16 years ago, and it's currently building subsea cable in the eastern coast of Africa, with expansion into terrestrial fibre that has brought a lot of capacities on other subsea cable capacities. It further expanded into data centres, providing wholesale open access connectivity. Open Access Data Centres was set up about five years ago, to complement the connectivity business of WIOCC, and Tunde Coker has been the CEO for just over two years now. So, it's building data centres across Africa, with a flagship data centre in Lagos, which is where the Equiano Cable lands in Lagos. It also has data centres in South Africa through Africa Cable, and recently launched one in Kinshasa, Congo, and also building its national long-distance networks that have open access in Nigeria.

Creativity And Digital Innovation

Driving creativity and digital innovation at workplace have been part of the standard DNA of Dr. Tunde Coker. As a company, they look at creativity in terms of how they change the game, how they drive efficiency in terms of speed of execution. And the company is using technology to innovate through people, technology, processes, and strong governance. The expectation and leadership context, that everybody is able to innovate, is what drives Open Access Data Centres.

Future Plan on Creativity and Innovation

Creativity and digital innovation have been part of the culture of Open Access Data Centres. The vision of the company defines how it operates and invests.

One of the future plans of the company on creativity and digital innovation, is that the company is spending over \$200 million as its visionary leadership plan to position Lagos as a significant digital infrastructure hub in the next three to four years.

Challenges

Despite the positive part of creativity and digital innovation at workplace, Tunde Coker has identified several obstacles that could hinder creativity and digital innovation at workplace. Using Africa as an example, Tunde Coker is of the view that one of the things about operating in Africa is that they want an opportunity to innovate around obstacles, insisting that Africa is the place to be in terms of investments because of its peculiar challenges that come with opportunities. Having identified several challenges that pose obstacle to creativity and digital innovation at workplace, such as government regulation and the Ease of Doing Business, Tunde Coker is of the view that collaboration with the relevant agencies of government and with the right organisations, will help address most of the obstacles and complexities that hinder creativity and digital innovation. Open Access Data Centres is currently engaging with government agencies like the Lagos Chamber of Commerce and Industry, to address some of the identified challenges.

CSR Initiatives

Open Access Data Centres is big on giving back to the community in which it operates, through Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives. The company has a policy that clearly states that local communities where it operates should be provided with some level of job opportunities, a policy that the company has continued to implement by making sure that the first choice of hire are local people. The company also invest in things like Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education, which it has carried out in conjunction with Lagos State government and other bodies as well. So, Open Data Centres has a very strong governance framework around CSR initiatives, not just in Nigeria, but across the African continent.





Mr. Wole Abu

CEO, Liquid Intelligent Technologies

Mr. Wole Abu, the Chief Executive Officer of Liquid Intelligent Technologies Nigeria, has been a driving force in digital transformation across Africa. With over two decades of experience in telecommunications, Abu has led pioneering projects that have enhanced connectivity, data infrastructure, and technological accessibility. Under his leadership, Liquid Intelligent Technologies Nigeria has played a pivotal role in strengthening Nigeria's digital economy, including spearheading the activation of the Equiano subsea cable, developing Africa's largest data center, and expanding high-speed fiber networks. Before Liquid Intelligent Technologies, Abu served as CEO of Pan African Towers, where he built a robust telecom infrastructure. His previous roles at Airtel Nigeria, Vee Networks, Celtel, and Zain Nigeria enriched his expertise across multiple facets of the telecom industry, from engineering and operations to sales and finance.

Future Plans for Innovation and Creativity

Liquid Intelligent Technologies is committed to bridging Africa's digital divide. The company's future plans under Abu's leadership include: Expanding its fiber-optic network to more Nigerian cities, enhancing broadband penetration. Investing in AI-driven innovations, leveraging partnerships such as Meta AI's LLaMa 2 to enhance digital services. Enhancing cybersecurity and cloud solutions through its subsidiary, Liquid C2. Driving the adoption of IoT, SD-WAN, and 5G infrastructure to support Nigeria's growing digital economy.

CSR Initiatives

Liquid Intelligent Technologies actively contributes to digital inclusivity and education through various CSR programs, including: UNICEF Partnership (2021):

Supporting Giga's mission to connect every school to the internet. School Broadband Mapping Project: Providing real-time data on schools' proximity to the company's fiber network to accelerate digital learning. Digital Skills Development: Sponsoring ICT training programs for youths and underserved communities.

Corporate Profile

Liquid Intelligent Technologies is a leading digital provider in Africa, operating a 110,000 km fiber network across the continent. Through its subsidiaries, including Liquid C2 and Telrad, the company delivers connectivity, cloud services, cybersecurity, and enterprise solutions.

Corporate Advertisement

Liquid Intelligent Technologies – Powering Africa's Digital Future. Stay connected, stay secure, and thrive in the digital age with Africa's advanced network. From fiber to cloud, Liquid ensures seamless connectivity and innovation-driven solutions tailored to your needs. Join the digital revolution today.

Challenges to Innovation and Future Directions

Despite significant progress, Nigeria's telecom sector faces hurdles, including infrastructure vandalism, fluctuating foreign exchange rates, and high operational costs. Additionally, inconsistent Right of Way (RoW) fees and a lack of digital infrastructure remain barriers to nationwide broadband access.

To foster innovation, Abu emphasizes: A stable economic environment with uniform RoW regulations. Public-private partnerships to enhance digital infrastructure investment. Access to capital and incentives for tech entrepreneurs. By addressing these challenges, Liquid Intelligent Technologies aims to accelerate Nigeria's digital transformation and position the country as a tech hub.

LIQUID
INTELLIGENT TECHNOLOGIES



Sade Dada

Head of Public Policy, Anglophone West Africa and Connectivity & Innovation Policy Manager, Africa at Meta Platforms, Inc. (formerly Facebook).

Folasade “Sade” Dada is an attorney by training serving as Head of Public Policy, Anglophone West Africa and Connectivity and Innovation Policy Manager, Africa at Meta Platforms, Inc. (formerly Facebook). Sade collaborates with stakeholders from government, civil society, academia, and industry to find solutions to complex internet policy issues facing African countries. She also works with various teams within and external to Meta to ensure internet connectivity initiatives and innovative products/solutions (such as AI and the Metaverse) are executed successfully.

Sade is passionate about bringing high-speed connectivity to communities and enabling tech ecosystems in Africa so that individuals can access the internet and technology and their economic and social benefits. She was recognized as one of the 50 Most Valuable People in Nigeria’s Digital Economy and most recently named an “Inspiring Fifty” woman making impactful contributions across Africa’s tech ecosystem. She is a member of the Nigeria Internet Governance Forum—Multistakeholder Advisory Group and the Internet Society—Nigeria Chapter.

Prior to Meta, Sade tackled significant broadband deployment issues through her work at the Wireless Infrastructure Association, U.S. Federal Communications Commission, and Microsoft. She was also an Associate Instructor in Indiana University’s Telecommunications Department.

Sade earned her Bachelors in Journalism from Georgia Southern University, her Masters in Telecommunications from Indiana University, and her Juris Doctorate from Indiana University Maurer School of Law.





Evbuomwan Nosakhare Philip

Chief Pricing & Strategy Officer at Vezeti

Evbuomwan Nosakhare Philip is the Chief Pricing & Strategy Officer at Vezeti, a company transforming the digital and telecommunications sector. With extensive experience in leadership, business development, and strategy, Nosakhare has played a key role in positioning Vezeti as a major player in the industry.

Nosakhare holds a B.Sc. in Economics from Ambrose Alli University and an MBA in Marketing from Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University. His career in telecommunications began at Globacom, where he worked for 16 years, rising to Senior Manager and Head of Business Planning, Pricing & Strategy at Glo Gateway. His trading portfolio amounted to \$1.2 billion during his tenure at Glo Gateway Business.

His strong background in telecommunications is further evidenced by his training at the Telecommunications Executive Management Institute of Canada (TEMIC) and Telecoms Academy (UK), where he earned a certification in Telecoms Pricing, Bundling, and Charging Strategy. Noskhare is exposed to the fields related to technology, management, and telecommunications, which have greatly contributed to his ability to lead a company operating at the intersection of these sectors. His professional career spans several leadership roles in technology-driven industries, where he demonstrated a knack for operational efficiency, strategic planning, and fostering innovation.

Nosakhare's leadership at Vezeti has resulted in the company's expansion into new markets, including the United Kingdom and West Africa. His vision is to leverage technology as a tool for empowerment and growth, both for individuals and businesses. Under his guidance, Vezeti has adopted innovative solutions in AI, IoT, and cloud computing, helping to improve service offerings for enterprises of all sizes.

A champion of innovation, Nosakhare promotes a company culture that values creative problem-solving and customer-centric approaches. His focus on emerging technologies has enabled Vezeti to stay ahead of industry trends and maintain its competitive edge. His forward-thinking leadership has also significantly enhanced the company's operational capabilities and market presence.

In addition to his corporate role, Nosakhare is committed to social impact. He is actively involved in philanthropic initiatives through the Mercy Aid Foundation, where he supports kidney and heart disease patients, provides interest-free loans to small traders, and advocates for community welfare. He is particularly passionate about using technology to improve education and social welfare in underserved communities. By increasing access to digital tools and resources, Nosakhare aims to create a more inclusive and equitable society.

Evbuomwan Nosakhare Philip is recognized for his strategic foresight, technological expertise, and dedication to social impact, making him a visionary leader in the telecommunications and digital services sector.





Tobechukwu Okigbo

**Chief Corporate Services and Sustainability Officer,
MTN Nigeria**

Tobechukwu Okigbo serves as the Chief Corporate Services and Sustainability Officer at MTN Nigeria, where he has significantly influenced the company's drive for creativity, digital innovation, and regulatory progress. Tobe, with an LLB from the University of Maiduguri and an MBA from the University of Liverpool, began his telecom career at Vmobile in 2005. His expertise quickly propelled him to a senior role at Airtel, where he was instrumental in shaping government and environmental affairs, playing a key role in advancing Nigeria's telecom sector.

In 2015, Tobe joined Smile Communications as Chief Corporate Services Officer, where he oversaw the company's legal, communications, and regulatory functions. His career reached new heights in 2017 when he joined MTN Nigeria. At MTN, he now leads teams responsible for Legal, Regulatory, Corporate Communications, CSR, and Sustainability. Additionally, he serves as Chairman of Yello Digital Financial Services Ltd and sits on the board of MoMo Payment Service Bank Ltd, steering MTN Nigeria's fintech expansion.

Tobe's crisis management skills and expertise in strategy formulation have made him a sought-after leader in the dynamic telecom landscape. As a certified dispute resolution professional from the Centre for Effective Dispute Resolution (CEDR) UK, his leadership in navigating complex regulatory and corporate challenges is widely recognized.

MTN Nigeria's Vision for Innovation and Creativity

MTN Nigeria aims to be Africa's leading digital solutions provider, building the largest digital platforms, enhancing network infrastructure, and promoting financial inclusion. They plan to achieve net zero emissions by 2040 and focus on long-term environmental, social, and governance practices to improve lives and foster economic empowerment across Africa.

MTN Nigeria's CSR Initiatives

MTN Nigeria has been involved in various CSR initiatives, including scholarships for STEM students, infrastructure development in underserved areas, youth empowerment programs, and medical services. These efforts have impacted over 31 million Nigerians, with investments exceeding NGN24.73 billion.

Corporate Profile of MTN Nigeria

MTN Nigeria Communications PLC is the country's leading telecom provider, serving over 75 million subscribers. In addition to telecom services, MTN is a leader in financial inclusion through fintech platforms like YDFS and MoMo Payment Service Bank. Its commitment to innovation, sustainability, and community impact has solidified its position at the forefront of Nigeria's digital economy.

Corporate Advertisement

MTN Nigeria: Empowering Lives, Driving Innovation.

At MTN, we don't just connect people; we empower communities. Our innovative solutions in telecom and fintech are transforming how Nigerians live, work, and connect. MTN—Everywhere you go.





Prince Oyekanmi Elegushi

CEO, Lagos State Infrastructure Maintenance and Regulatory Agency (LASIMRA)

Prince Oyekanmi Elegushi, the CEO of the Lagos State Infrastructure Maintenance and Regulatory Agency (LASIMRA), is a transformative leader driving creativity and digital innovation in Nigeria's infrastructure sector. With a strong background in law, politics, real estate, and fintech, Elegushi has successfully integrated technology into governance and urban development. His leadership at LASIMRA has been instrumental in modernizing Lagos' digital infrastructure, fostering smart city initiatives, and ensuring regulatory frameworks evolve alongside rapid technological advancements.

Driving Innovation and Future Plans

Under Elegushi's leadership, LASIMRA has pioneered various digital and technological innovations aimed at improving Lagos' infrastructure. His vision focuses on leveraging technology to enhance urban management, including: Smart City Expansion: Deployment of smart poles, intelligent traffic systems, and IoT-powered urban solutions to enhance efficiency and security. 5G Infrastructure Development: Partnering with telecom companies to accelerate the deployment of 5G networks for improved connectivity. Digital Infrastructure Regulation: Implementing policies that encourage private sector participation in infrastructure development while maintaining industry standards. Sustainable Energy Solutions: Promoting the use of eco-friendly technologies, such as solar-powered infrastructure, to support Lagos' green energy goals.

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Initiatives

Elegushi's leadership at LASIMRA extends beyond innovation to community development. Some key CSR projects include: ICT

Laboratory Renovation: Upgrading the ICT lab at Agidingbi Grammar School, Ikeja, with modern computers to promote digital literacy among students. Community Empowerment: Providing financial assistance and gifts to underprivileged individuals during festive seasons to support local communities. Workforce Development Programs: Conducting training sessions for young professionals in digital infrastructure management and smart city solutions.

Corporate Profile

LASIMRA is the regulatory agency responsible for overseeing infrastructure maintenance and technological advancements in Lagos State. The agency's mission is to create a sustainable, technology-driven city through innovative policies and strategic collaborations. LASIMRA's core focus areas include broadband infrastructure, smart city projects, energy solutions, and regulatory compliance.

Corporate Advertisement

Innovation Meets Infrastructure: Building the Future of Lagos. At LASIMRA, we are transforming Lagos into a smart, connected metropolis. From 5G expansion to smart city solutions, we are committed to sustainable development and technology. Partner with us to drive the next phase of digital infrastructure. LASIMRA—Innovating for a Smarter Lagos.

Overcoming Challenges and Future Directions

Despite remarkable progress, fostering creativity and innovation in Nigeria's infrastructure sector faces several challenges, including: Regulatory Bottlenecks: Outdated policies hinder the adoption of emerging technologies. Limited Funding: Insufficient investment in research and development slows innovation. Resistance to Change: Traditional industries struggle to embrace digital transformation. To address these obstacles, Elegushi advocates policy reforms that encourage private-sector investment, and STEM education to develop a skilled workforce. By fostering innovation, Lagos can strengthen its position as a hub for transformation and urban development.





Dr. Veronica Ogwa Babayemi

Managing Director at Telko Managed Service

Dr. Veronica O. Babayemi is a distinguished leader in the telecommunications sector, notably as the co-founder and Managing Director of Telko Managed Services Ltd (TMS). Her 22-year career, marked by significant roles at Airtel Africa PLC, showcases her ability to drive innovation and navigate complex industry landscapes. Her transition from finance to telecommunications reflects her adaptability and strategic vision. At TMS, she has transformed a local interconnect clearing house into a global Voice over Internet Protocol VoIP market player, leveraging her expertise to facilitate seamless international communication.

Future plans on innovation and creativity

TMS's future plans center on expanding its innovative offerings in the wholesale VoIP market, utilizing its International Data Access License from the NCC to enhance interconnection services. The company aims to further develop its VAS Aggregation, delivering cutting-edge value-added services. Dr. Babayemi is committed to pushing technological boundaries, ensuring TMS remains at the forefront of digital innovation.

Corporate social responsibility, CSR initiatives

Dr. Babayemi's commitment to corporate social responsibility is evident in her involvement with the Favour, Kindness and Grace Foundation, an NGO focused on improving children's health. Her dedication to community service highlights her belief in giving back and creating a positive societal impact.

Corporate profile

Telko Managed Services: Global VOIP pioneers, powered by NCC, delivering seamless voice and data.

Corporate Advertisement

"Connecting the World, Innovating Communication." Telko Managed Services is your global partner for seamless VoIP and interconnection solutions, driving digital connectivity and innovation.

Challenges to Innovation and Future Directions

The telecom industry faces obstacles like: Limited funding for startups: New companies struggle to secure capital, especially given the current cautious investment climate, hindering the development of novel solutions. Inadequate infrastructure: Particularly in rural areas, poor connectivity and limited access to essential technology impede the rollout of innovative services.

Complex regulatory hurdles: Overly bureaucratic processes and complicated rules can stifle agile innovation. Significant skill gap: A shortage of professionals with expertise in advanced digital technologies. Market saturation: In urban centers, high competition and established players can make it challenging for new entrants. Lack of fair competition: Anti-competitive practices and market dominance by a few large companies. Intellectual property concerns: Weak protection of patents and copyrights can discourage vital research and development, as innovators fear their ideas may be easily copied without recourse. To address these, she suggests: encouraging venture capital investment and government grants, investing in infrastructure through public-private partnerships, simplifying regulatory frameworks, enhancing education and training programs, fostering niche market development, ensuring fair competition and intellectual property concerns. By implementing these strategies, Dr. Veronica Babayemi believes Nigeria's telecom sector can unlock its full potential for innovation, economic growth, sustainability, and global competitiveness.





Yahaya Ibrahim

Chief Technical Officer (CTO), MTN Nigeria

Yahaya Ibrahim, the Chief Technical Officer (CTO) of MTN Nigeria, is a seasoned leader whose career exemplifies a commitment to excellence and innovation in telecommunications. Appointed on October 14, 2024, Yahaya has been at the forefront of MTN Nigeria's technological transformation, leveraging over two decades of experience to shape the company's infrastructure and digital strategy.

Yahaya's academic credentials include a Bachelor's degree in Statistics from the University of Abuja and a Master's degree in Telecommunications from Birmingham City University. To deepen his expertise and leadership capabilities, he completed executive programs at Harvard Business School and Lagos Business School, equipping him with the tools to lead in a rapidly evolving and competitive industry.

Since joining MTN Nigeria in 2002 as a Transmission Coordinator, Yahaya has steadily advanced through roles of increasing responsibility. In this early position, he played a crucial role in deploying over 1,000 transmission nodes, establishing MTN's initial network presence across 11 states. By 2005, as National Fibre Implementation Manager, he spearheaded the rollout of 3,500 kilometers of fiber infrastructure, a significant step in modernizing Nigeria's telecommunications backbone. By 2008, Yahaya's efforts as Senior Manager for Core and Transmission Implementation drove a 99% migration of MTN's network to an all-IP architecture within three years, enhancing performance and setting the stage for the introduction of advanced connectivity solutions. His technical acumen and ability to deliver large-scale projects earned him the role of General Manager for Network Implementation in 2015, where he led the deployment of over 40,000 kilometers of fiber and spearheaded the rollout of Nigeria's first 4G and 5G networks. His leadership also extended to managing over \$3 billion in CAPEX, facilitating strategic projects such as MTN's tower sales, the Visafone acquisition, and the integration of 5G technology. In 2022, Yahaya briefly transitioned to General Manager for Network Access Planning and Optimization, focusing on spectrum

re-farming and enhancing operational efficiency. These initiatives resulted in improved network performance and customer satisfaction, further cementing his role as a critical figure in MTN Nigeria's success. He subsequently returned to his leadership role in Network Implementation, where his contributions continued to align operational goals with MTN's broader strategic vision.

Yahaya's accomplishments have earned him widespread recognition. In 2007, he became the first Nigerian recipient of MTN Group's prestigious Yellow Star Award, a testament to his innovative contributions. He has also received the CEO Award in 2021 and the People Manager Award in 2008, reflecting his ability to balance technical excellence with impactful people management.

A devout Muslim, Yahaya's faith serves as the bedrock of his personal and professional life, shaping his approach to leadership and decision-making. He is deeply guided by principles of humility, fairness, and unwavering integrity, fostering an environment of trust and mutual respect. These values manifest not only in his ethical leadership style but also in his inclusive vision, where the success of his teams and stakeholders is prioritized over personal accolades. Known for his modest yet impactful demeanor, Yahaya consistently seeks to create lasting value, emphasizing sustainable solutions that uplift communities and drive meaningful change. His ability to combine technical excellence with a heartfelt commitment to long-term societal impact has solidified his reputation as a leader who leads with both skill and compassion.

Yahaya Ibrahim's career is a remarkable testament to the power of aligning technical expertise with strategic leadership. As CTO of MTN Nigeria, he continues to drive connectivity, innovation, and resilience, leaving an indelible mark on both the company and Nigeria's telecommunications sector. His legacy reflects the profound impact of visionary leadership on an industry vital to national development.



Fernando Fernandes

Managing Director and CEO of TelCables Nigeria Limited

...Driving Innovation at TelCables Nigeria Limited

Fernando Fernandes, the Managing Director and CEO of TelCables Nigeria Limited, has been a pioneer in digital innovations and telecommunications advancements in Nigeria. Since his appointment in 2023, Fernando has steered TelCables toward groundbreaking connectivity solutions, expanding the company's fiber-optic networks, cloud services, and digital infrastructure. His leadership is defined by fostering creativity, strategic partnerships, and integrating renewable energy into telecommunications—ensuring that TelCables remains at the forefront of digital transformation in West Africa.

Future Plans for Innovation and Creativity

Under Fernando's leadership, TelCables is driving bold innovations to bridge the digital divide: Expanding fiber-optic networks – Bringing high-speed internet to underserved communities. Building smart cities – Integrating IoT and AI for seamless urban connectivity. Boosting cloud services – Empowering businesses with next-gen digital solutions. Creating a Pan-African digital backbone – Strengthening connectivity across the continent. With a focus on customer-driven innovation and sustainable tech, Fernando envisions a future where TelCables powers Africa's digital revolution.

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Initiatives

TelCables has a strong history of corporate social responsibility under Fernando's leadership. Key initiatives include: Digital Education Programs: Providing ICT training for students and young entrepreneurs. Community Connectivity Projects: Establishing free Wi-Fi zones in public institutions. Green Energy

Adoption: Investing in solar-powered telecom infrastructure to reduce carbon emissions. Disaster Relief Support: Assisting communities affected by natural disasters with emergency connectivity solutions.

Corporate Profile

TelCables Nigeria delivers high-speed connectivity, cloud solutions, and digital transformation across Nigeria and West Africa. A subsidiary of Angola Cables, we power businesses, communities, and institutions with reliable fiber-optic networks and next-gen telecom services—driving innovation, economic growth, and digital inclusion.

Corporate Advertisement

TelCables Nigeria – Connecting You to the Future! Experience seamless connectivity with TelCables Nigeria—your gateway to high-speed internet, cloud solutions, and digital transformation. From businesses to smart cities, we power innovation and drive economic growth with our robust fiber-optic network and world-class telecom solutions. Stay ahead in the digital era with TelCables Nigeria—where innovation meets reliability!

Challenges to Creativity and Innovation in the Industry

Despite advancements, the telecommunications industry faces several challenges that hinder creativity and innovation: Regulatory Barriers: Slow adaptation of policies delays the implementation of new technologies. Infrastructure Gaps: Uneven distribution of technological resources limits access to digital solutions. Risk-Averse Industry Culture: Many organizations prioritize stability over innovation, discouraging experimentation.

Future Directions for Innovation

To overcome these obstacles, Fernando advocates for: Regulatory Reforms that promote faster technology adoption. Public-Private Partnerships to accelerate infrastructure development. A Culture of Innovation that encourages calculated risk-taking and pilot testing of new ideas. Investment in Talent Development to nurture the next generation of African tech leaders. Fernandes remains committed to leading TelCables toward a future where innovation drives economic growth.





Branka Mracajac

Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director at 9 Payment Service Bank (9PSB)

Branka Mracajac is a dynamic leader with a strong background in risk management, financial strategy, and digital innovation. With over a decade of experience in traditional banking and FinTech across more than 30 markets, she has consistently pushed the boundaries of financial technology. As the CEO and Managing Director of 9 Payment Service Bank (9PSB) since 2020, Branka has driven digital transformation, making financial services more accessible to Nigeria's unbanked and underserved populations. Under her leadership, 9PSB has developed an innovative, customer-focused digital banking platform that is both bank-agnostic and telco-agnostic. This approach enables seamless financial transactions for individuals, small businesses, and FinTech companies, fostering a more inclusive digital economy.

Future Plans for Innovation and Creativity

Looking ahead, 9PSB aims to deepen financial inclusion through advanced digital solutions, including: AI-driven financial services to personalize banking experiences. Expanded agency banking networks to reach underserved communities. Blockchain-powered secure transactions to enhance financial transparency. Embedded finance partnerships with FinTech startups for seamless digital payments. Branka's vision focuses on integrating cutting-edge financial technology into everyday banking, ensuring that digital finance becomes a tool for economic empowerment across Nigeria.

Corporate Social Responsibility Initiatives

Branka has driven impactful CSR at 9PSB, reinforcing the bank's commitment to social good. Key initiatives include: Youth Empowerment: LSETF training for entrepreneurs and financial/digital skills for graduates.

Education Support: Donated classroom furniture to Al-Ibrahim Memorial School for Orphans in Kano. Food Relief: Partnered with Lagos Food Bank Initiative to support vulnerable communities. Special Needs Advocacy: Assisted JKS Home for Children and the Special Correctional Center for Girls in Idi-Araba. Financial Literacy: Mentored students during Global Money Week and World Savings Day.

Corporate Profile

9PSB is Nigeria's leading digital-first bank, driving financial inclusion with seamless payments, agent banking, and mobile wallets. Powered by cutting-edge technology, we offer secure, convenient, and affordable banking—anytime, anywhere.

Corporate Advertisement

"Banking Without Limits—Powered by 9PSB" Unlock seamless transactions, secure digital payments, and innovative banking solutions with 9 Payment Service Bank.

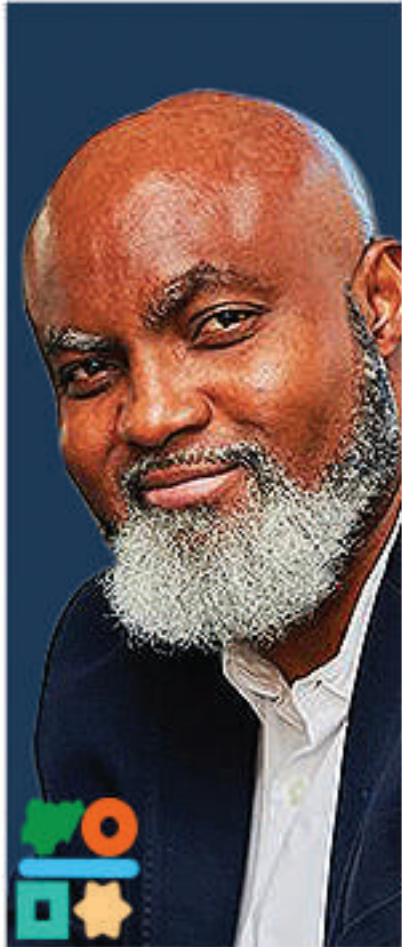
Challenges to Creativity and Innovation in the Financial Industry

Despite the strides in digital banking, several obstacles threaten innovation in the financial sector, including: Regulatory uncertainties that slow down FinTech adoption. Limited infrastructure in rural areas, restricting digital banking expansion. Cybersecurity threats that challenge the adoption of new technologies. High operational costs for digital banking solutions.

Future Directions

To overcome these challenges, financial institutions must: Collaborate with regulators to create a favorable policy environment. Invest in digital and financial literacy programs to increase adoption. Strengthen cybersecurity frameworks to protect users. Leverage public-private partnerships to expand digital infrastructure. Under Mracajac's leadership, 9PSB is redefining digital banking in Nigeria, driving financial innovation for economic growth and fostering inclusion through cutting-edge technology.





Lanre Kolade

Founder and CEO of Koltronics Nigeria Limited

Lanre Kolade is an innovative leader with a solid educational background in Electrical Engineering/Telecoms from Obafemi Awolowo University, refined further with executive education at London Business School and Wits Business School. With over 25 years of industry experience, Lanre has consistently driven digital growth across Africa. As the founder and CEO of Koltronics Nigeria Limited, he leads the mission to bridge Africa's digital divide by expanding fiber optic networks across and within African countries, improving subsea connections, and building out Edge Data Centers to strengthen connectivity across the continent.

Beyond his role at Koltronics, Lanre chairs ConnectedCompute, a data center advisory firm based in Dubai. His career includes leadership at Vodacom Business in Nigeria and roles across GS Telecom and Gateway Communications, underscoring his influence on both Francophone and Anglophone Africa. Lanre's unique perspective has also led him to share his vision on platforms like the African Leadership in a Digital World Summit, hosted by the African Digital Academy and Smart Africa Digital Academy at Arizona State University.

Prior to starting Koltronics, Lanre was the Group CEO of CSquared, where he oversaw the company's growth from four to six countries, adding Togo and the Democratic Republic of Congo. His leadership saw the first African landing of Google's Equiano cable, a \$30 million project in partnership with the Togolese government, marking a transformative step for regional connectivity. His achievements have attracted global attention, with U.S. President Joe Biden highlighting CSquared's impact at the G20 summit in Bali in 2022.

Lanre's expertise is not only in his actions but also in his strategic understanding of the telecom industry's challenges and the roadmap to overcoming them. He recognizes that for creativity and innovation to flourish, barriers to entry must be lowered through supportive regulations, easier access to capital, and business-friendly tax policies. Lanre advocates for reducing bureaucratic red tape to replace outdated legacy infrastructure and clear technological debt. He emphasizes the need for cross-border fiber investments—highlighting that coordination among African countries is critical to enabling the secure deployment of patient capital from development finance institutions (DFIs) and private equity firms.

To foster a thriving telecommunications sector, Lanre suggests collaborative approaches to Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) and industry consolidation to reduce fragmentation. He advocates for embracing cloud-native and software-defined networking technologies, with enhanced cybersecurity and AI-driven operations to drive customer-centric digital transformation. In addition to infrastructure development, he believes in the power of talent investment, suggesting innovation strategies such as internal intrapreneurship programs, partnerships with startups and academia, open innovation platforms, and initiatives to attract digital talent from the African diaspora.

Lanre's legacy is deeply tied to empowering Africa's youth and digital economy. By identifying and addressing industry challenges, he is not only shaping the present but ensuring a sustainable, inclusive future where connectivity and digital transformation become accelerators for economic development. With a relentless drive, strategic insight, and commitment to innovation, Lanre is a powerful force in Africa's digital world, characterized by strong determination and strategic thinking.





Prof. Obadare Peter Adewale

Founder & Chief Visionary Officer (CVO), Digital Encode Limited

Dr. Obadare Peter Adewale is the Founder and Chief Visionary Officer (CVO) of Digital Encode Limited, a globally recognized authority in digital trust, cybersecurity, governance, and innovation. Renowned for his visionary leadership, Peter has transformed Digital Encode into a pioneer of Cybersecurity creativity and digital transformation. As Africa's most credentialed cybersecurity strategist, he holds over 58 professional certifications and multiple prestigious accolades, including the Forbes Best of Africa Digital Trust Leader 2023 award and First Professor of Practice in Cybersecurity in Nigeria. His expertise spans cybersecurity, data privacy, penetration testing, and IT governance, making him a sought-after thought leader and keynote speaker worldwide.

Driving Creativity and Innovation

Under Dr. Obadare's leadership, Digital Encode has introduced groundbreaking services and solutions in cybersecurity and digital transformation. Notable achievements include Africa's first PECB-certified Digital Transformation Officer certification and First Ec-Council Licensed Penetration Tester in Africa. The organization prides itself on empowering businesses to navigate the complexities of digital ecosystems securely and efficiently.

Future Plans for Innovation and Creativity

Digital Encode aims to:

- * Expand Digital Security Initiatives: Develop AI-driven cybersecurity tools to address emerging global Cybersecurity threats.
- * Establish a Global Cybersecurity Hub: Create a center for cybersecurity innovation and research in Africa.
- * Foster Talent Development: Launch training programs to nurture the next generation of cybersecurity experts in Africa.
- * Promote Digital Trust Frameworks: Pioneer standards and policies that enhance digital trust across industries.

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Initiatives

Digital Encode CSR efforts reflect its commitment to societal impact. Completed initiatives include: Cybersecurity Awareness Campaigns: Partnering with educational institutions to teach safe digital practices. Tech Scholarships: Sponsoring underprivileged students to pursue IT and cybersecurity education. Community Outreach Programmes: Providing digital literacy training in underserved communities. COVID-19 Support: Donating digital tools and resources to enable remote learning during the pandemic.

Corporate Profile

Digital Encode: Cybersecurity, Forensics, and Digital Trust Leaders. Empowering Businesses: Digital Encode IT Governance & Security.

Corporate Advertisement

Secure your future with Digital Encode innovative digital trust services and solutions.

Challenges Facing Creativity and Innovation in the Industry

- *Rapidly Evolving Threats: The cybersecurity landscape is constantly changing, with attackers deploying sophisticated methods faster than defenses can adapt.
- *Talent Shortage: The industry faces a critical shortage of skilled professionals, particularly in Africa.
- *Regulatory Complexities: Inconsistent global and regional regulations hinder innovation.
- *Limited Investment: Insufficient funding for research and innovation hampers growth, infrastructural development.

Future Directions

- *AI and Machine Learning: Leverage advanced technologies for proactive threat detection and prevention.
- *Collaboration: Foster partnerships between private organizations, governments, and academia to drive innovation.
- *Standardization: Advocate for global cybersecurity standards to streamline regulations.
- Awareness and Education: Expand training programs to address talent gaps and promote digital literacy.





Akeem Adewale Ogunkoya

CEO, IMBIL

Akeem Adewale Ogunkoya is a distinguished executive with an extensive background spanning technology, business, and entrepreneurship. Holding a Master of Science degree in Computer Networks, Akeem possesses deep technical expertise, which has served as a solid foundation for his achievements in the telecommunications and IT industries.

Certified as a Project Management Professional (PMP), Akeem is known for his skill in overseeing complex projects, ensuring they are completed within scope, budget, and schedule. His adherence to industry best practices has earned him recognition as a proficient and dependable leader in project management. Akeem is also a Chartered IT Professional accredited by the British Computer Society, emphasizing his dedication to upholding professional standards and ethics in the rapidly evolving IT sector. His affiliation with this respected organization highlights his commitment to continuous learning and professional development.

Beyond his technical and managerial credentials, Akeem is a dynamic entrepreneur whose ventures span multiple high-growth industries. He is the founder of a successful telecommunications business with operations in both the United Kingdom and Nigeria, where he has utilized his technical expertise and business acumen to establish a competitive presence. His innovative approach and dedication to quality have been instrumental in driving growth and building a robust telecom network that meets the needs of modern customers. In addition to his accomplishments in telecommunications, Akeem has expanded his portfolio into the energy sector, where he owns an oil and gas business.

This venture exemplifies his ability to diversify investments and capitalize on lucrative opportunities within complex markets. Through strategic business development and effective risk management, Akeem has established a strong presence in the energy industry, achieving sustainable growth despite the challenges inherent in this sector.

Akeem's entrepreneurial vision further extends into the hospitality industry, where he owns hotel properties that cater to the growing demand for quality service in this field. His success in this sector underscores his capacity to identify emerging trends and seize new opportunities, reinforcing his reputation as a versatile and forward-thinking leader.

Akeem Adewale Ogunkoya's multifaceted career showcases his versatility, innovation, and strategic insight. With a proven track record across telecommunications, energy, and hospitality, he continues to drive positive change, create value, and leave a lasting impact on each industry he engages with. His accomplishments underscore a lifelong commitment to excellence, professional ethics, and sustained growth, making him a visionary entrepreneur and an influential leader in multiple sectors.

A recipient of numerous awards in telecommunications, Akeem has been recognized for his outstanding contributions to the industry. His accolades include the prestigious Gold Award of the Ijebu Professional Excellence Foundation, a testament to his exceptional achievements and unwavering commitment to professional excellence. His other telecom awards further reflect the profound impact he has made in the telecommunications sector, solidifying his reputation as a leader of extraordinary vision and capability.





Adesuwa Imasekha

GCEO, TAI Corporation

Adesuwa Imasekha, GCEO of TAI Corporation, stands at the forefront of digital innovation, blending financial expertise with technology to drive socioeconomic development. As the first female telecoms founder of TAI Corp and TAIMA Technologies, she has led transformative initiatives in telecommunications, energy, agriculture, and fintech. Through her leadership, she has championed digital inclusion, ensuring that underserved communities gain access to affordable telecom services, fintech solutions, and technology-driven opportunities. She founded Women Impacting Nigeria (WIN) to bridge the gender digital divide through digital and financial literacy. Under her leadership, TAI Corp has become a leader in mobile technology, digital finance, and economic empowerment.

Future Plans for Innovation and Creativity

Adesuwa's Vision for Innovation

Adesuwa is committed to bridging the digital divide and fostering inclusivity through key initiatives: Gender-Focused Digital Inclusion – Empowering women with mobile services, digital literacy, and entrepreneurship tools. AI & Machine Learning – Enhancing automation, personalization, and network efficiency. IoT for Growth – Optimizing agriculture, logistics, and urban planning with smart solutions. Accessible Telecom Services – Developing voice-assisted and inclusive mobile technology. Financial & Telecoms Integration – Launching Fintel, a mobile wallet for micro-loans and digital payments.

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Initiatives

TAI Corp's Game-Changing CSR Initiatives. TAP (The Accelerator Program) – Empowering women with top tech and business skills. Digital Literacy for Rural Schools –

Free training and internet for underprivileged students. Tech for Farmers – Connecting farmers to better markets via mobile tech. Community Connectivity – Affordable internet access for remote and low-income areas. Women's Entrepreneurship Grants – Funding and mentorship for female-led startups.

Corporate Profile

TAI Corporation: Powering Africa's Digital Future

As a leader in technology and finance, TAI Corporation drives digital transformation through mobile telecom, fintech, and innovation.

Corporate Advertisement

"Connectivity. Innovation. Inclusion." At TAI Corp, we make technology work for all. From affordable mobile services to AI-powered solutions, we empower communities and businesses to thrive. Experience the future—where innovation drives impact.

Obstacles to Creativity and Innovation & Future Directions

Infrastructure Gaps – Rural areas still lack essential connectivity, slowing digital inclusion and economic growth. High Tech Costs – Expensive digital tools and internet access hinder widespread adoption. Regulatory Barriers – Complex, inconsistent policies create roadblocks for startups and limit tech-driven progress. Gender Digital Divide – Women face limited access to resources, education, and opportunities, restricting diversity in innovation. Future Directions – Expanding broadband access can unlock Africa's digital potential.

Future Directions:

To overcome these obstacles, policymakers and industry leaders must: Expand infrastructure investment, especially in rural areas. Promote regulatory frameworks that encourage innovation and lower barriers for new entrants. Develop public-private partnerships to make digital tools more affordable. Strengthen digital education initiatives, particularly for women and marginalized groups. Imasekha shapes the future of digital innovation, champions sustainable technology solutions for a viable economy.

taicorp.co



Engr. Morenikeji Aniye

CEO, Hotspot Networks Limited

Engr. Morenikeji Aniye is a seasoned professional with over 22 years of experience in telecommunications, ICT, and business management, with a focus on wireless network planning, optimization, and implementation.

With 16 years dedicated to designing and managing commercial wireless networks, his expertise spans project management, supply chain optimization, business development, and customer relationship management. He is particularly passionate about leveraging information technology to drive socio-economic growth in rural areas, with a commitment to digital inclusion and revitalizing the Nigerian education sector. As the Founder and CEO of Hotspot Network Limited, Engr. Aniye has successfully positioned the company as a leader in telecommunications infrastructure and ICT services. He has overseen the design and deployment of innovative rural mobile network solutions, utilizing solar-powered systems to improve connectivity in underserved areas. Under his leadership, the company achieved significant milestones, including securing a N2.9 billion project finance facility and reaching a turnover of 1 billion naira in 2014. Before founding Hotspot Network Limited, Engr. Aniye established Verreaux Technologies Ltd, where he led the company's growth from inception to a prominent player in the telecoms managed services sector. His technical expertise and leadership in large-scale projects have earned him recognition, including spearheading the first successful radio network access swap in Northern Nigeria and expanding

MTN Nigeria's Abuja network from 3 to 500 base stations. Engr. Aniye holds a Bachelor of Engineering degree from the University of Ilorin and has undergone extensive professional training in network optimization and project management from leading institutions in the UK, South Africa, and Nigeria.

He is a Fellow of the Nigeria Society of Engineers (FNSE) and a member of several professional bodies, including the Project Management Institute (PMI), Nigeria Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (NIEEE), and the Chartered Institute of Project Managers of Nigeria (CIPMN). With a deep understanding of the intersection between technology and socio-economic development, Engr. Aniye continues to drive innovation and digital transformation in Nigeria's telecommunications and ICT landscape. His leadership, technical acumen, and strategic vision have made him a respected figure in the industry, committed to using technology to enhance lives and bridge the digital divide.

The Company: Hotspot Network Limited

Hotspot Network Limited (HNL) is a revolutionary company that continues to evolve with innovative solutions to meet the ever-growing market demands. HNL is a licensed telecommunications company that develops telecom infrastructure across Nigeria.

In recent times, the company has focused on rural telephony network, renewable energy, and Standalone Solar for Productive Use (SSPU), building and operating mobile network base stations solely powered by solar solution. Hotspot's business model incorporates energy access to energize small scale ecommerce and productive use activities in rural communities while still powering the telecommunications base station with less than 500w energy requirement. With a 5kW Solar Solution planned across 2000 rural villages, hotspot aims to reduce the carbon footprint by up to 363.652 kt. Hotspot Network Limited is a need-focused company that continually seeks alternative

HOTSPOT



Dr. Krishnan Ranganath

**Regional Executive for West Africa and Morocco,
Africa Data Centres (ADC)**

Dr. Krishnan Ranganath, fondly called Dr Krish is the Regional Executive for West Africa & Morocco at Africa Data Centres (ADC), has been at the forefront of creativity and digital innovation for over three decades. As a leader in data centre development, cloud computing, and IT-managed services, he has revolutionized the digital landscape across Africa. His expertise in business re-engineering, operational efficiency, and startup incubation has enabled ADC to expand rapidly, solidifying its position as a pan-African leader in data infrastructure. Under his leadership, ADC has prioritized regional and edge data centre development, ensuring data localisation and strengthening Africa's digital economy. His work has significantly contributed to bridging Africa's digital divide by fostering cloud adoption, cybersecurity resilience, and data sovereignty.

Future Plans for Innovation and Creativity

Africa Data Centres continues to innovate by: Edge Expansion: Bringing high-speed digital services closer. AI-Powered Efficiency: Smarter, more secure data management. Green Energy Drive: Cutting carbon with renewables. Cloud Innovation: Partnering globally for better connectivity.

CSR Initiatives Completed by Africa Data Centres

Digital Skills for Youth: Bridging the gap with ICT training. Women in Tech: Training & mentorship for future leaders. Green Data Centres: Energy-efficient, eco-friendly solutions. STEM Scholarships: Funding underprivileged students. Startup Support: Infrastructure for African innovators.

Corporate Profile

Africa Data Centres (ADC), a Cassava Technologies business, operates Africa's largest network of carrier- and cloud-neutral data centres. With a presence across the continent, ADC delivers secure, interconnected storage solutions, enabling seamless digital transformation.

Corporate Advertisement

"Powering Africa's Digital Future Africa Data Centres provides secure, high-performance digital infrastructure across the continent. Our cutting-edge facilities drive cloud adoption, business growth, and innovation. Join us in building a smarter, interconnected Africa.

Challenges in Creativity and Innovation

Despite the rapid growth of Africa's digital economy, several challenges persist: High Infrastructure Costs: Developing and maintaining data centres demands significant investment. Regulatory and Compliance Barriers: Complex legal frameworks in different African countries slow down expansion. Cybersecurity Threats: Increased digital adoption has led to rising security risks and data breaches. Limited Skilled Workforce: The shortage of local talent in cloud and data centre management hinders innovation.

Future Directions

To overcome these challenges, industry leaders must: Leverage Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) to enhance investment in digital infrastructure. Strengthen Data Protection Policies to ensure compliance and build trust in cloud solutions. Invest in Talent Development through specialized training programs in AI, cybersecurity, and cloud computing. Adopt AI-Driven Automation to improve efficiency and reduce operational costs. Expand Renewable Energy Integration to drive sustainable data centre operations. With Dr. Krish Ranganath at the helm, Africa Data Centres is well-positioned to continue leading Africa's digital evolution, ensuring that businesses and individuals alike can thrive in an increasingly connected world.

Africa
DataCentres



Prof. Engr. Ibrahim A. Adeyanju

CEO, Galaxy Backbone

Prof. Engr. Ibrahim A. Adeyanju, a distinguished ICT expert, currently serves as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (MD/CEO) of **Galaxy Backbone Limited (GBB)**. His leadership is driving **creativity, digital transformation, and innovation** in Nigeria's public sector. Before his appointment as MD/CEO in March 2024 by President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, he served as **Executive Director of Digital Exploration and Technical Services** at GBB. His tenure in that role was marked by transformative initiatives in cybersecurity, digital infrastructure expansion, and capacity-building programs. His leadership now aims to position Galaxy Backbone as a premier provider of ICT services in Nigeria, fostering a culture of innovation, collaboration, and efficiency across government agencies.

Future Plans for Innovation & Creativity

Under Prof. Adeyanju's leadership, Galaxy Backbone is set to embark on **major digital initiatives** to enhance government operations and Nigeria's digital economy: Expansion of the National ICT Infrastructure Backbone (NICTIB) to increase connectivity across rural and urban areas. Advanced cybersecurity frameworks to protect national digital assets and government data. AI-driven automation in public services, improving efficiency and digital accessibility. Public-private partnerships (PPPs) to boost innovation, including collaborations with global technology leaders. Capacity-building programs to train government employees and students in emerging digital technologies.

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Initiatives

Galaxy Backbone has actively bridged the digital divide through various CSR programs:

ICT Training for Government Officials – Providing digital literacy programs to public sector employees. University Partnerships – Establishing digital resource centers and training students in ICT skills. Community-Based Internet Expansion – Launching initiatives to improve internet access in underserved areas. Tech Workshops for SMEs – Helping small businesses harness digital tools for growth. Cybersecurity Awareness Campaigns – Educating individuals and organizations on best security practices.

Corporate Profile

Galaxy Backbone Limited (GBB), established in 2006, is a government-owned ICT provider modernizing Nigeria's digital infrastructure. It manages a 5,000km fiber backbone, Tier III & IV data centers, and a Cybersecurity Operations Center, driving digital transformation and bridging the nation's digital divide.

Corporate Advertisement

Galaxy Backbone: Powering Nigeria's Digital Future.

With cutting-edge infrastructure and top-tier cybersecurity, we're transforming the public sector. From seamless connectivity to secure data solutions, we are Nigeria's trusted digital partner.

Barriers to Innovation & Future Directions

Despite significant advancements, resistance to change and infrastructure gaps remain major hurdles to innovation. Many government agencies hesitate to embrace digital transformation due to cost concerns, security risks, and lack of technical expertise.

Solutions & Future Directions:

Galaxy Backbone drives digital adoption through change management and awareness while providing affordable, scalable ICT solutions with support. It invests in NICTIB expansion to boost connectivity and collaborates with global tech partners.

Under Adeyanju's leadership, Galaxy Backbone is paving the way for a digitally empowered Nigeria.





Dr. Francis Osita-Chuks

**Managing Director and CEO, RAPIDLINK
Telekoms Limited**

Dr. Francis Osita-Chuks is the Managing Director and CEO of RAPIDLINK Telekoms Limited, a leading telecommunications company in Nigeria recognized for its innovative solutions and commitment to enhancing connectivity across the nation. With over 15 years of extensive experience in the telecoms industry, Dr. Osita-Chuks has played a pivotal role in driving the company's growth and expanding its market presence in a highly competitive landscape.

He holds an impressive array of academic qualifications. He earned a Bachelor of Science in Government and Public Administration, a Master of Business Administration with a specialization in Marketing and a Doctorate in Business Administration. His strong academic background equips him with a deep understanding of both the technical and business aspects of the telecommunications sector. This unique blend of skills has enabled him to successfully navigate the challenges in the industry while capitalizing on emerging opportunities for growth and innovation. Under his leadership, RAPIDLINK Telekoms has transformed into a key player in providing Interconnect services to major network operators in Nigeria (MTN, Airtel, 9mobile, Globacom). The company also offer interconnect services which is its core business.

His strategic vision has been instrumental in positioning the company as a trusted partner for businesses and individuals seeking reliable and high-quality telecom services.

A significant aspect of Dr. Osita-Chuks leadership is his commitment to innovation. His proactive approach to adopting the latest advancements in telecommunications, such as 5G technology and IoT solutions, has significantly contributed to the company's growth and market relevance. Dr. Osita-Chuks believes that staying ahead of technological trends is crucial for delivering value to clients and ensuring their success in a rapidly evolving digital landscape.

Dr. Osita-Chuks is also deeply committed to social responsibility and community development. He actively engages in initiatives aimed at promoting digital literacy and providing access to technology in underserved communities. Through partnerships with local organizations and educational institutions, he has championed programs that empower individuals with the skills necessary to thrive in the digital age. One of such initiatives is the offering of free internet access, computers and digital literacy programs in schools in Umunneochi. In addition to his role at RAPIDLINK Telekoms, Dr. Osita-Chuks is a respected thought leader in the telecommunications industry. He frequently speaks at conferences and industry events, sharing his insights on the future of telecommunications, digital transformation, and the importance of sustainable business practices. His contributions have earned him recognition as an influential figure within the Nigerian tech ecosystem.

Though, the telecoms industry in Nigeria currently faces several key challenges ranging from slow rollout of digital services, high investment costs and market saturation, among others, Dr. Osita-Chuks is optimistic that the adoption of strategies as integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and automation and partnerships within the broader tech ecosystem will unlock new opportunities and drive sustained progress.





Cynthia Harb Ige

Chief Executive Officer, Internet Solutions Nigeria Limited (ISN)

As the Chief Executive Officer and Director of Internet Solutions Nigeria Limited (ISN), Cynthia Harb Ige has consistently championed strategic transformations and digital innovation.

Her leadership has driven the development of solutions such as internet connectivity, cloud hosting, cybersecurity products, and ERP systems, aligning technology with business objectives—efforts that have enhanced ISN's operational efficiency, market positioning, and customer engagement.

Beyond corporate endeavours, Cynthia's role as the Founder of the Stella Harb Foundation highlights her commitment to societal impact. Through the foundation, she focuses on promoting education and community empowerment, leveraging creativity to foster positive change.

Cynthia believes that ISN has ambitious plans to maintain its leadership in digital transformation considering the company's future priorities which include: Investing in artificial intelligence to enhance service delivery and customer experience; and strengthening partnerships to broaden offerings in cybersecurity and cloud services.

ISN's priorities also include: introducing scalable solutions tailored to boost operational efficiency for small and medium enterprises; and establishing programs to nurture the next generation of digital innovators, with a focus on inclusivity and diversity. By fostering a culture of innovation, ISN aims to remain at the forefront of the evolving technological landscape.

ISN boasts of impactful Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives, reflecting its commitment to societal development. These include: Donating books and materials to enhance school libraries and sponsoring library projects in underserved communities; and Providing musical instruments to schools in Victoria Island, Lagos, and participating in youth outreach programs to improve access to education and resources. These efforts underscore ISN's commitment to driving societal development. Like every other telecommunications outfit, ISN faces challenges such as limited funding and infrastructure that hinder the development and scaling of innovative projects; lack of professionals skilled in emerging technologies such as AI and machine learning; rapidly evolving compliance requirements that pose challenges to innovation; and intense competition that reduces the traction for new ideas.

However, for the telecom industry to overcome these challenges, ISN proposes collaborative ecosystems which allows for partnership between academia and industry players to bridge talent gaps and foster research innovation; Increased R&D Investment that will result to allocating resources for research to stay ahead of trends; engaging regulators to create a supportive environment for innovation; and prioritizing customer needs to develop impactful solutions. Internet Solutions Nigeria Ltd. (ISN), a leading Systems Integrator and Internet Service provider in Nigeria, serving a diverse client base across all sectors of the economy, believes strongly that it will continue leading with creativity and innovation.

With over 20 years of experience delivering premium ICT services and solutions, and boasting a national coverage with the emphasis on redundancy through aggregation across its core network via multiple carriers, ISN is on a mission to utilise its high network availability and protected resources to empower its clients with a host of managed services using technical innovation.





Rabie Jarmakani

Chairman & Executive Director, Internet Solutions Nigeria Limited

Rabie Jarmakani is a seasoned professional with 27 years of expertise in the Nigerian ICT sector, renowned for driving innovation and connectivity to advance the digital landscape.

Jarmakani's contributions span technology, telecommunications, and media, with a focus on fostering productivity and scalability across Nigeria's economy, and has held several influential roles throughout his career, starting as the founding Managing Director of Internet Solutions Nigeria Limited (ISN) in 1997.

He established ISN as a premier Internet Service Provider, pioneering innovations such as Nigeria's first scratch card payment system and a national Network Operations Center to ensure reliable services.

As CEO of ISN (2014–2020), Jarmakani expanded operations across seven cities, boosted bandwidth utilization by 400%, and introduced managed services like co-location, cybersecurity, cloud solutions, and IoT applications- a leadership that saw ISN achieve consistent annual growth despite economic challenges.

Internet Solutions Nigeria Limited (ISN) started as a Dial-Up Internet Service Provider and later expanded into wireless radio services using ISM frequencies. In the 2000s, ISN launched its VSAT platform, introducing KU and C-band satellite internet services to provide reliable Internet and Intranet solutions across Nigeria.

With a skilled team of engineers, ISN operates from Lagos and has branches in Port Harcourt, Warri, Abuja, and Kano, serving a broad customer base nationwide. The company holds ISO 9001:2008 (UKAS) certification for Quality Management, reflecting its dedication to delivering services that meet customer needs and expectations.

Currently, as Chairman and Executive Director (Strategic Partnerships), Jarmakani focuses on cultivating alliances to propel ISN's growth, aligning strategic goals with stakeholder interests to maintain its industry leadership. He also leads Aeon Alliance Intel Limited as Executive Director, leveraging data-driven mobile virtual network operator (MVNO) services to enhance telecommunications connectivity in Nigeria.

He played a pivotal role in launching DSTV in Nigeria as Sales & Marketing Manager for MultiChoice Nigeria (1993–1997), establishing a national distribution network and liaising with regulators like the Nigerian Broadcasting Commission.

Jarmakani earned a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science from Beirut University College and has pursued leadership roles in community initiatives. He served as President of the Board of Directors at the American International School of Lagos and supports projects like St. George's Charity Foundation, funding medical facilities in Nigeria. A Rotary Club Projects Director (Platinum Award recipient), Jarmakani is active in international organizations, including the Boy Scouts of America and Canadian High Commission initiatives. His achievements reflect a commitment to excellence in service delivery, innovation, and community development.

Born on April 3, 1965, in Lagos, Nigeria, Jarmakani is married with two sons, embodying a blend of professional excellence and dedication to family and community.





Deepak Mehta

Founder and Managing Director, TecPoint Global Solutions Ltd.

Deepak K. Mehta, the Founder and Managing Director of TecPoint Global Solutions Ltd., is a seasoned leader with over 23 years of experience spanning telecommunications, online marketing, business process outsourcing (BPO), and event management. Under his leadership, TecPoint has emerged as one of Nigeria's fastest-growing Internet Service Providers (ISPs), earning prestigious industry awards such as the "Emerging ISP" accolade in 2022 and the "Most Innovative Enterprise Solutions Provider of the Year" at the 2024 TOTA Event. Mr. Mehta has been instrumental in transforming Nigeria's digital landscape, leveraging his expertise in business development and brand strategy to drive TecPoint's smart connectivity solutions. With leadership experience at Globacom and Tata Teleservices, he has consistently propelled revenue growth and industry innovation.

TecPoint's Future Plans for Innovation and Creativity

TecPoint Global Solutions is revolutionizing Nigeria's broadband landscape through emerging technologies and strategic partnerships. The company aims to expand its pan-Nigeria network, ensuring high-speed internet in underserved regions. Key innovations include: 5G Expansion: TecPoint plans to introduce 5G-ready infrastructure to accelerate Nigeria's digital transformation. IoT and Smart Solutions: The company is working on IoT-driven enterprise solutions to optimize business processes. Affordable Broadband for All: Through collaborative efforts, TecPoint seeks to reduce the cost of internet access, making digital services more inclusive.

CSR Initiatives by TecPoint

TecPoint, driven by Mr. Mehta's passion for social impact, is making a difference through: Education: Upgrading school infrastructure for better learning. Healthcare: Sponsoring cataract surgeries and child health programs. Cancer Awareness: Advocating and supporting prevention initiatives. Sports Development: Backing a national cricket team to empower young athletes.

Corporate Profile

TecPoint Global Solutions is Nigeria's trailblazing ISP, delivering smart, seamless connectivity nationwide. With eight years of innovation, strategic partnerships, and pan-Nigeria reach, we're expanding fast to keep you connected—anytime, anywhere.

Corporate Advertisement

"TecPoint Global Solutions: Powering Nigeria's Digital Future! Stay connected with the fastest, most reliable, and innovative internet service provider. Whether for businesses or homes, TecPoint delivers smart, seamless, and affordable broadband solutions across Nigeria. Choose TecPoint—where innovation meets connectivity!"

Challenges and Future Directions in Digital Innovation

Mr. Deepak Mehta has identified several barriers stifling innovation in Nigeria's telecom industry, including: Lack of National Telecom Infrastructure Protection: Vandalism and fiber cuts result in significant losses for service providers. Mr. Mehta advocates for the government to declare telecom infrastructure as a critical national asset. Right of Way (RoW) Constraints: High RoW fees hinder network expansion. A more favorable policy would accelerate digital inclusion. Multiple Taxation: Excessive levies on telecom firms slow down investment in infrastructure. A tax-friendly regulatory environment is essential for industry growth. TecPoint is committed to breaking barriers, shaping policies, and driving Nigeria's digital revolution—one innovation, one strategy at a time.





Mr. Ladi Okuneye

Chief Executive Officer of UniCloud Africa

Mr. Ladi Okuneye is the Chief Executive Officer of UniCloud Africa, a Pan-African edge Cloud Platform with operations in Nigeria, Ghana, South Africa and Kenya. He has over 20 years of hands-on experience and a progressive track record in operations, business startup, consulting, project management, finance and marketing in telecommunications, software technology, media and entertainment. He has held executive roles in high growth technology companies across Africa, Europe and North America and sits on the board of an Internet Service Provider and a few other non-technology companies.

His experience is gained from working as an executive in leading industry players, and as a management consultant for top tier firms. Mr. Okuneye has been engaged in numerous projects within the African telecommunications sector, including turnaround of struggling operations, business planning and operations, infrastructure design and roll-out, regulatory, and market entry projects.

Prior to UniCloud Africa, Mr. Okuneye served as a Vice President at Mangata Networks a global satellite telecommunications provider that developed a patented architecture to connect micro data centers over satellite. He also previously served as the Director of Strategic Marketing at O3b Networks, the world's first Medium Earth Orbit satellite operator. Prior to O3b, Mr. Okuneye served as the Group Chief Marketing Officer at Suburban West Africa and the Chief Executive Officer of Suburban Broadband.

Mr. Okuneye was a Management Consultant for IBM Global Services and Keane Consulting earlier in his career. Mr. Okuneye holds a Diploma in Telecommunications Management from the University of Hull and an undergraduate degree from Northern Illinois University.





Mr. Soji Maurice-Diya

CEO, ATC Nigeria (a subsidiary of American Tower Corporation)

Soji Maurice-Diya, CEO of ATC Nigeria, is a visionary in telecommunications with over 20 years of experience, driving digital transformation and connectivity. He has led strategic expansion, innovation, and infrastructure growth, positioning ATC Nigeria as a leader in the industry. Previously COO at ATC Nigeria, he also held key roles at IBM, Etisalat, Ernst & Young, and ExxonMobil, spearheading major tech-driven initiatives. Under his leadership, ATC Nigeria's market share and profitability soared, with a 25 percent portfolio growth in three years. Recognized among the 'Top 100 Operations Team Leads' in 2024, he continues to shape Nigeria's digital and economic landscape.

ATC Nigeria's Future Plans in Innovation and Creativity

ATC Nigeria is leading digital transformation with cutting-edge infrastructure and smart technologies. Key initiatives include: Smarter Operations – Boosting efficiency with advanced models. Next-Gen Solutions – Expanding RaaS, Fibre, SpaceX Gateways, and Smart City Infrastructure. Strategic Expansion – Partnering with MTN to co-locate on 34 of 100 Airtel RaaS sites. Urban Innovation – Deploying Smart Macro and Smart Poles with LASIMRA, following Uganda's success model.

CSR Initiatives Completed by ATC Nigeria

Through the ATC Nigeria Foundation, the company has executed numerous corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiatives to bridge the digital divide and uplift underserved communities: 96 Digital Learning Centers across 32 states, offering access to education, healthcare, and financial services through technology.

Solar-powered classrooms with internet connectivity and modern learning tools, improving educational opportunities. Community healthcare clinics providing essential digital health solutions. Entrepreneurship and job-readiness training programs, equipping individuals with skills and certifications.

Corporate Profile

ATC Nigeria, a subsidiary of American Tower Corporation, delivers cutting-edge wireless infrastructure, from towers to smart networks. Committed to digital connectivity, it drives innovation and strategic partnerships.

Corporate Advertisement

Empowering Nigeria's Digital Future At ATC Nigeria, we go beyond infrastructure. We create connectivity solutions that drive businesses, connect communities, and power the future of digital innovation. Whether through smart cities, rural connectivity, or next-gen telecommunications solutions, we are your trusted partner in building a connected Nigeria. Join us in shaping tomorrow's digital landscape.

Key Challenges in Nigeria's Tech Sector

Weak Infrastructure – Poor electricity and patchy broadband stall growth. **Regulatory Hurdles** – Bureaucracy, high taxes, and policy flip-flops stifle innovation. **Funding Shortages** – Startups struggle with limited access to capital. **Talent Exodus** – Skilled professionals leave, draining local expertise. **Education Gaps** – Outdated training limits workforce readiness.

Future Directions for Overcoming Challenges

Maurice-Diya's Innovation Agenda. **Boost Infrastructure** – Expand networks via public-private partnerships. **Ease Regulations** – Streamline policies to attract investment. **Grow Talent** – Invest in education and skills development. **Fund Startups** – Enhance access to capital for local innovators. **Drive R&D** – Strengthen homegrown tech solutions. Under his leadership, ATC Nigeria is driving digital innovation, powering seamless connectivity, and fueling sustainable economic growth.





Mr. Ekeng E. Ekeng

Managing Director, NGCOM

Mr. Ekeng Ewa Ekeng is a holder of a Bachelor of Science Degree in Geology from the University of Port Harcourt, Rivers State. He has an M.MBA in Telecoms from Telecoms Academy, United Kingdom and Master of Business Administration from Kingston University London, United Kingdom.

Ekeng Ewa is a reputable expert in the ICT industry with over 25 years experience in building, developing and managing business. He is a founding Partner of NGCOM Network Solutions Limited. He has gloriously earned the appellation of a tested administrator with admirable versatility and creativity.

Before NGCOM, he had worked as a Project Manager with Fremok Services; a Lagos-based company. He resigned from the services of the company in a bid to commence his own Network Support and management business in the year 2003, so, he founded Greenish Solutions Ltd.

He has implemented many projects and managed notable jobs and contracts with the Nigerian Ports Authority (NPA), University of Calabar, Rivers State Government, University of Africa, Bayelsa, River state Diagnostic center amongst many others.

As the CEO of NGCOM Network Solutions, Ekeng has led the company's transformation into a leader in high-speed internet services. His company's journey has been shaped by a vision for innovation and a passion for delivering seamless digital experiences. The company has invested heavily in digital transformation, adopting technologies like 5G and fiber-optic networks to improve service delivery.

Under Ekeng's leadership, NGCOM's future plans include enhancing digital experiences, integrating AI and machine learning, collaborative innovation, and prioritizing sustainability and inclusivity. It aims to maximize the potential of fiber-optic technology, offer smarter services through AI, and collaborate with startups and tech innovators to co-develop groundbreaking services.

From his many years of experience, Eken could identify certain challenges to creativity and innovation in the digital economy sector. According to him, such hurdles, especially for the telecoms and ISP space, include legacy systems, regulatory constraints, cybersecurity risks and funding of research and development.

Despite these limitations, he strongly expresses the commitment that the challenges will not derail the vision of NGCOM as it innovates into the future, from tapping into the immense potentials of next-generation technologies, customer-centric technologies, scalable infrastructure, rural connectivity and sustainable innovation.

According to him, NGCOM is poised to continue leading the charge in innovation, shaping the future of Africa's telecom industry for the better.

Meanwhile, Mr. Ekeng is a staunch believer of giving back to the society to counterbalance profit with impact. As such, NGCOM's CSR initiatives reflect its commitment to sustainability, social equity, and community empowerment. The company has taken steps to reduce environmental footprint, empower small businesses, support employee well-being, and partner with non-profit organizations.





Ejovi Aror

Group Managing Director of ipNX Nigeria Limited

Ejovi Aror is a visionary leader in Nigeria's ICT sector, serving as the Group Managing Director of ipNX Nigeria Limited. With over 30 years of experience, he has been instrumental in identifying and driving technology trends, pioneering industry-defining solutions, and positioning ipNX as a trailblazer in digital innovation. Under his leadership, ipNX transformed from a small telecommunications start-up into a major player in Nigeria's ICT industry, providing cutting-edge connectivity and broadband solutions to residential, small business, and enterprise markets. Ejovi was also pivotal in launching Nigeria's first Fibre-to-the-Home (FTTH) service, setting a new standard for high-speed internet access. Before joining ipNX in 2001, Ejovi Aror made significant contributions at Telnet Nigeria Limited, where he quickly rose to become Managing Director of ITECO Nigeria Limited. A first-class graduate of Electrical Electronics Engineering from Obafemi Awolowo University, he furthered his education at Brunel University, England, and Lagos Business School, earning a Master's in Engineering Communications and an Executive MBA, respectively.

ipNX's Future Plans for Innovation and Creativity

Looking ahead, ipNX is focused on advancing Nigeria's digital ecosystem through: Expanding high-speed broadband penetration to bridge connectivity gaps in underserved regions. Driving AI and IoT adoption to enhance automation and smart infrastructure. Strengthening cybersecurity frameworks to mitigate rising digital threats. Enhancing digital education initiatives to equip Nigeria's youth with relevant ICT skills.

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Initiatives

ipNX has undertaken various impactful CSR initiatives, including: Education Support:

Providing free broadband internet to public schools in Lagos, benefiting over 51,300 students. Tech Talent Development: Partnering with Semicolon Africa to equip young innovators with high-quality internet access for skill development. COVID-19 Response: Delivering free internet services to the 110-bed Onikan isolation centre in Lagos. Government Partnerships: Collaborating with Oyo and Enugu State Governments to extend digital learning access.

Corporate Profile

ipNX Nigeria Limited is a leading ICT company specializing in broadband internet, network solutions, and digital transformation services. The company has pioneered key innovations in Nigeria, including the first commercial FTTH deployment, dual-play broadband services, and 1Gbps broadband speeds.

Corporate Advertisement:

"Transforming Lives with Innovation – ipNX delivers cutting-edge digital solutions, high-speed broadband, and smart technologies to power the future of Nigeria's digital economy. Stay connected, stay ahead with ipNX!"

Challenges to Innovation & Future Directions

Despite the progress, key challenges persist that include: Funding Constraints: Limited access to capital slows down tech expansion. Talent Drain: The emigration of skilled ICT professionals threatens local innovation. Regulatory Bottlenecks: Bureaucratic policies can hinder digital transformation. To address these, ipNX advocates for stronger public-private partnerships, increased investment in human capital, and a more collaborative tech ecosystem. As the industry evolves, embracing artificial intelligence, AI, 5G, blockchain, and green technology will be crucial for sustained growth.





Olusola Teniola

Director, Strategic Business Initiatives, ipNX Nigeria

Olusola Teniola is a distinguished technology executive with over 30 years of experience in telecommunications and ICT. As the Director, Strategic Business Initiatives at ipNX Nigeria, he has been at the forefront of driving digital transformation, advocating for affordable broadband access, and shaping policies that foster innovation. His leadership has spanned both corporate and not-for-profit sectors, including roles as the President of the Association of Telecommunications Companies of Nigeria (ATCON) and Nigerian Coordinator for the Alliance for Affordable Internet (A4AI). Teniola's career reflects a deep commitment to expanding digital infrastructure and bridging the connectivity gap. His time at the World Bank as a digital development consultant, as well as leadership positions at Phase3 Telecom, IS Internet Solutions, and Detecon Consulting, have equipped him with a global perspective on ICT growth. Through strategic collaborations, he has consistently worked to implement frameworks that encourage technological innovation and increase access to digital services in Nigeria and beyond.

ipNX Nigeria's Future Plans for Innovation and Creativity

ipNX Nigeria is committed to leveraging cutting-edge technology and strategic partnerships to drive innovation across the ICT sector. The company's future direction includes: Expanding broadband infrastructure to underserved areas, ensuring more Nigerians have access to fast and affordable internet. Advocating for policies that encourage private-sector-led innovation and investment. Enhancing digital education initiatives by providing more schools and institutions with internet connectivity. Developing smart solutions for businesses and government agencies to improve efficiency and service delivery. Through these initiatives, ipNX aims to position Nigeria as a leader in digital transformation, ensuring that creativity and technology go hand in hand to shape a connected future.

CSR Initiatives by ipNX Nigeria

ipNX Nigeria is committed to corporate social responsibility, providing internet to 22 Lagos schools, expanding educational initiatives in Oyo and Enugu, empowering youth with digital skills, and driving community-focused tech solutions. Its mission is to use technology for positive social impact.

Corporate Profile & Advertisement

ipNX Nigeria Limited is a leading ICT company delivering innovative connectivity, enterprise solutions, and smart infrastructure, redefining digital access in Nigeria.

Experience Unmatched Connectivity with ipNX!

From ultra-fast broadband to smart enterprise solutions, ipNX is your gateway to a digitally advanced future. Stay connected, stay innovative – Choose ipNX today!

Challenges to Creativity & Innovation in the ICT Sector

Despite significant advancements, Nigeria's ICT industry faces several challenges that threaten innovation, including: Inadequate infrastructure (unreliable power supply, limited broadband reach). Regulatory bottlenecks that slow down the adoption of new technologies. Economic instability, including currency fluctuations and inflation, affecting investment in R&D. Collaboration between government and the private sector is key to overcoming challenges. Innovation-friendly policies, tech incubation investment, and workforce development will help Nigeria's ICT sector thrive.



Dapo Otunla

Senior Vice President and Chief Corporate Services Officer, IHS Nigeria

Dapo Otunla currently serves as Senior Vice President and Chief Corporate Services Officer at IHS Nigeria, part of the IHS Towers (NYSE: IHS) group. He leads multiple strategic functions, including Sustainability, Corporate Communications, Government Relations and Regulatory Affairs, Data Governance and Compliance, and Legal. With an extensive background in law and management, Dapo's qualifications include a BSc in Political Science from the University of Ibadan, an LL.B from Fourah Bay College, University of Sierra Leone, and an LL.M and Certificate in Management from Northwestern University in Chicago. He is a licensed attorney across several U.S. states and in Nigeria. Dapo's expertise is instrumental in driving IHS Nigeria's agenda of digital innovations and sustainability, supporting IHS Towers' commitment to bridging connectivity gaps across emerging markets.

Corporate Profile of IHS Towers

Founded in Lagos in 2001, IHS Towers is one of the largest independent owners, operators, and developers of shared communications infrastructure in the world by tower, with over 40,000 towers across 10 markets. Serving a combined population of approximately 750 million people, it also supports digital initiatives and connectivity in underserved areas. In Nigeria, IHS Towers has more than 16,000 towers with six solutions—ranging from colocation to fiber and rural telephony—which are integral to helping their customers, the largest mobile network operators, meet their connectivity objectives.

Past Sustainability Initiatives by IHS Nigeria

IHS Nigeria's sustainability initiatives focus on four strategic pillars, Education and Economic Growth; Environment and Climate Change;

Our People and Communities, and Ethics and Governance, with a particular focus on digital innovation and education. Key initiatives include the 3 Million Technical Talents (3MTT) to help train Nigerian youth in digital skills, internet connectivity for schools in partnership with UNICEF Nigeria, the Global Educators Program with the Limitless Space Institute, and Mission T to train teachers in technology and ICT skills. Additionally, they've partnered with the Kwara State Government on the construction of the Ilorin Innovation Hub and backed sustainability efforts such as the provision of WASH facilities, tree planting, and a \$1.7 million investment in medical oxygen infrastructure for hospitals across Nigeria.

Innovation and Creativity

IHS Nigeria is committed to expanding its infrastructure with innovative solutions like greenfield sites, rooftop installations, and rural telephony projects. The company's two network operating centers in Lagos and Abuja will continue to bolster IHS's site infrastructure, network reliability, and security. Furthermore, IHS Nigeria is committed to supporting educational initiatives that empower young Nigerians with STEM skills, positioning itself as "Nigeria's Backbone of Digital Possibilities."

Industry Challenges and Solutions

The telecommunications industry faces unique challenges that could stifle innovation and creativity, such as cybersecurity threats, vandalism and security risks to infrastructure, high capital requirements for expansion, economic pressures impacting profitability, regulatory complexities, ethical concerns in emerging technological deployment and a shortage of skilled workforce due to emigration.

To overcome these obstacles, the industry could benefit from enhanced collaboration, supportive regulatory frameworks, workforce upskilling in digital and emerging technologies, and stronger protections for communications infrastructure as critical national assets.





Olufemi Arosanyin

Chief Executive Officer, IHS Cameroon S.A.

Olufemi Arosanyin is a visionary telecommunications executive with over 20 years of experience in business development and general management across diverse global markets. He holds a BSc degree in Electrical Engineering from the University of Ilorin and a Masters in Space Studies from the International Space University, France. He is an alumnus of INSEAD, London Business School, Harvard Business School, and other prestigious programs. In addition, he is a registered member of The Nigerian Society of Engineers (NSE) and Council for the Regulation of Engineering in Nigeria (COREN).

Career Highlights

Chief Executive Officer: IHS Cameroon (April 2023–Present)

Chief Commercial Officer: IHS Nigeria (2016–2023)

Spearheaded commercial operations for Nigeria's leading communications infrastructure company.

Education and Professional Development

Harvard Business School: Senior Executive Program for Africa (2017)

London Business School: Ericsson KAM Executive Program (2015)

International Space University: Masters in Space Studies (2004)

Additional certifications from INSEAD and Cal Poly Pomona in satellite systems and management.

Leadership in Innovation and Digital Creativity

Olufemi Arosanyin has built a career driving innovation and high-margin business growth in the telecommunications sector. From his early days as a systems engineer to his current role as CEO of IHS Cameroon, he has consistently focused on community impact, asset optimization, and stakeholder engagement. His strategic vision continues to help position IHS Towers as a global leader in communications infrastructure.

Innovation and Creativity

1. Ilorin Innovation Hub Sponsorship (2024): A platform promoting technology and entrepreneurship in Nigeria, featuring events including the Art Hackathon.
2. Technology Innovation Center in Brazil (2024): Exploring generative AI solutions for smart city development.
3. 3 Million Technical Talent (3MTT) Initiative (2023): Collaborating with Nigeria's Ministry of Communications to build digital skill learning communities nationwide.

IHS Towers' Key Sustainability Initiatives

1. COVID-19 Response (2020):

Donated N100M to CACOVID for healthcare resources.

Supplied 120,000+ test kits and medical supplies.

Provided relief to 4,500 vulnerable households in Lagos, Ogun, and Abuja.

2. IDP Empowerment (2016): Established women-led food service centers and supported displaced children with Integrated Learning Centers.

Corporate Profile

Founded in Lagos in 2001, IHS Towers is one of the largest independent owners, operators, and developers of shared communications infrastructure in the world by tower, with over 40,000 towers across 10 markets. Serving a combined population of approximately 750 million people, it also supports digital initiatives and connectivity in underserved areas.

At IHS Towers, we seek to go beyond communications infrastructure to create opportunities. By empowering communities, driving sustainability, and fostering innovation, we're helping shape a brighter, connected future.

Better Connections, Better Opportunities.





Mr. Muiyiwa Ogungboye

Managing Director, eStream Networks

Mr. Muiyiwa Ogungboye, a satellite-trained engineer and telecommunications entrepreneur, is the Managing Director of eStream Networks. At 35, he founded eStream, which has grown into a major player in Nigeria's digital and telecommunications sector over 19 years. Initially a satellite-based company offering VSAT services, eStream evolved under his leadership into a multi-product organization, expanding beyond satellite connectivity.

During COVID-19, Mr. Muiyiwa Ogungboye led the launch of two key products: co-location services in eStream's data center and Elite WiFi for homes and offices. These innovations kept businesses and individuals connected during challenging times. His strategic approach has ensured eStream's resilience in Nigeria's tough business environment, with a strong focus on innovation, operational excellence, and global standards.

Future Plans for Innovation and Creativity

eStream hit pause on sales in August 2024 to focus on a bold network upgrade. By 2025, it will relaunch as a next-gen telecom powerhouse for its 20th anniversary. Driving innovation from within, eStream invests in talent, fosters calculated risk-taking, and rewards breakthrough ideas. To stay ahead, it's bringing in fresh minds to power the future of digital transformation.

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Initiatives

eStream Networks has completed several impactful CSR initiatives, including: Providing free internet services to educational institutions to enhance digital learning. Supporting startups with discounted broadband services to foster entrepreneurship. Donating communication equipment to non-profit organizations and healthcare centers.

Partnering with community development projects to improve digital literacy among underserved populations.

Corporate Profile

eStream Networks is a leading Nigerian telecom provider, delivering fast, reliable, and secure broadband, enterprise connectivity, and data center solutions. Powered by cutting-edge tech, we keep businesses and individuals seamlessly connected.

Corporate Advertisement

eStream Networks – Powering the Future of Digital Connectivity
Stay ahead with ultra-fast, reliable internet and business solutions designed for growth. Whether at home or in the office, eStream Networks delivers seamless digital experiences tailored to your needs.

Challenges and Future Directions

Sustaining Innovation: Finding the right incentives to keep employees creative—money alone isn't enough and can sometimes feel like control rather than motivation.
Infrastructure Deficits: Unreliable power and weak internet backbone disrupt operations and slow digital transformation.
Talent Drain ("Japa"): Young professionals seek better opportunities abroad, creating a skills gap in the local tech ecosystem.

The Way Forward

Stronger Public-Private Partnerships: Collaborate to enhance national infrastructure and drive industry growth.
Talent Retention Strategies: Invest in training, mentorship, and flexible work environments to keep top talent engaged.
Digital-First Approach: Leverage emerging technologies to future-proof operations and maintain industry leadership. With bold leadership and innovation, Mr. Ogungboye drives eStream Networks to the forefront of Nigeria's digital economy. By sparking creativity, empowering talent, and embracing tech, the company is redefining connectivity and transforming telecom.





Bimpe Olaleye

Group Executive Director, Commercials at ipNX Nigeria Limited

Bimpe Olaleye is the Group Executive Director, Commercials at ipNX Nigeria Limited, where she has been instrumental in shaping the company's vision for digital transformation. With over three decades of experience in the telecommunications industry, she has successfully driven innovation, commercial growth, and operational efficiency. Her journey began at Telnet Nigeria Limited in 1989, where she rose to General Manager of Finance before joining ipNX in 2002 as Chief Financial Officer. By 2011, she was appointed to the board, where she continues to champion forward-thinking strategies in ICT.

A Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria (ICAN), the Institute of Chartered Taxation of Nigeria (CITN), and a member of the Chartered Institute of Directors, Nigeria (CIOD), Bimpe champions creativity and inclusion in the industry. Passionate about mentoring future leaders, especially women in STEM, she drives ipNX's innovation through sustainable solutions.

Under Bimpe Olaleye's Leadership, ipNX is Shaping Africa's Digital Future.

From AI-powered networks to expanding fiber access, ipNX is revolutionizing connectivity with bold strategies:

Tailored Tech Solutions tackling Africa's unique connectivity challenges. Powerful Partnerships with governments, startups, and tech firms to drive broadband expansion. AI-Driven Networks for faster, more reliable internet services. Fiber Expansion to underserved communities, ensuring digital inclusion. Tech Talent Development through education and skills programs. With Bimpe at the helm, ipNX isn't just growing—it's transforming Africa's digital landscape.



Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Initiatives

ipNX: Driving Impact Through Tech and Community Empowerment With a strong commitment to corporate social responsibility, ipNX is bridging the digital divide through:

Digital Learning: Free broadband for 30 public schools in Lagos and Oyo. COVID-19 Response: Free internet for Lagos' 110-bed Onikan isolation center. Tech Innovation: High-speed internet for Semicolon Africa's tech hubs, fueling entrepreneurship.

Corporate Profile

ipNX Nigeria Limited delivers high-speed broadband and innovative tech solutions, driving digital transformation, productivity, and growth.

Corporate Advertisement

"Experience the Future of Connectivity with ipNX! At ipNX, we believe that innovation drives progress. Our cutting-edge broadband solutions, AI-powered networks, and smart technology services are designed to keep you connected, productive, and ahead of the competition. Join the future of seamless communication—choose ipNX today!"

Challenges to Creativity and Innovation in the Industry

Despite progress, Nigeria's telecom sector struggles with economic instability, regulatory hurdles, brain drain, and high operational costs, slowing innovation.

Future Directions

To tackle challenges and drive innovation, the industry must: Boost R&D for homegrown tech solutions. Push for Reforms that empower startups and ICT businesses. Strengthen Talent Pipelines through education and training. Drive Public-Private Partnerships for better infrastructure and digital inclusion. Olaleye remains a strong advocate for these impactful initiatives, ensuring that ipNX continues to lead in innovation while contributing to a digitally empowered Nigeria.



FiberOne

Kenny Joda

Sales, customer service, strategy development, and operations management

Kenny is a versatile and results-oriented leader with extensive experience in sales, customer service, strategy development, and operations management. With a proven ability to solve complex business challenges, he has consistently driven growth and innovation across various industries, including broadband, enterprise solutions, banking and consumer goods.

Core Competencies

- **Sales Excellence:** Kenny has demonstrated exceptional skill in market penetration, achieving significant growth and establishing a strong presence for brands in competitive markets.
- **Customer-Centric Leadership:** Known for his focus on customer satisfaction, Kenny ensures seamless service delivery and long-term client relationships through proactive engagement and swift problem resolution.
- **Strategic Visionary:** He is adept at transforming organizational goals into actionable strategies, leveraging insights to position businesses for sustainable growth.
- **Operational Mastery:** Kenny excels in optimizing processes, managing cross-functional teams, and ensuring regulatory compliance to streamline operations and enhance efficiency.
- **Partnership Development:** Respected for building strategic partnerships, Kenny fosters collaborations that align with business objectives and deliver measurable results.

Professional Highlights

- Led the expansion of broadband services across multiple regions, contributing to widespread market adoption.
- Played a key role in developing high-performing teams, re-engineering business processes, and driving operational efficiency.

- Spearheaded initiatives that enhanced customer experience, reduced service disruptions, and positioned organizations as market leaders.
- Collaborated with regulatory authorities and stakeholders to ensure smooth operations and compliance with industry standards.

Passion and Approach

Kenny is deeply passionate about mentoring, coaching, and fostering a culture of excellence. He combines a can-do attitude with innovative thinking to unlock opportunities and achieve organizational goals. His ability to learn, unlearn, and harness the strengths of others remains a cornerstone of his leadership philosophy.

Personal Statement

"I am dedicated to driving organizational transformation by blending strategic insight with operational expertise. My focus is on delivering value through collaboration, innovation, and a relentless commitment to excellence in sales, customer service, strategy, and operations."



Happiness Obioha

Managing Director, Tecom IT Solutions

Happiness Obioha, the Managing Director of Tecom IT Solutions, has consistently demonstrated leadership in creativity and digital innovation. With a strong background in business administration and technology-driven strategy, she has played a vital role in reshaping the digital landscape. Previously, as the Country Manager at DATASIXTH Security Consulting, she spearheaded cybersecurity innovations, ensuring that organizations could adapt to evolving digital threats. During her tenure at CBC EMEA Group, she led business development initiatives that integrated cutting-edge technologies to enhance client solutions. Her role as Senior Client Account Manager at Nova Track Limited saw her implementing creative digital solutions to streamline client operations. Additionally, her leadership at A3&O Limited and Layer3 Limited contributed to market-driven innovations that strengthened business competitiveness.

Happiness Obioha's contributions to the digital industry have not gone unnoticed. She was recognized as the CyberSecurity Woman of the Year at the 6th Tech Innovation Awards in 2022 and was honored as the Country Chief Data Officer Ambassador (CCDOA) in 2023, solidifying her reputation as a leader in digital transformation.

Tecom IT Solutions: Future Plans for Innovation and Creativity

Tecom IT Solutions is dedicated to innovation and digital transformation. The company focuses on AI-driven cybersecurity, global IT training partnerships, cloud infrastructure, and advanced data analytics. By investing in emerging technologies, Tecom empowers businesses to enhance efficiency and growth.

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Initiatives

Tecom IT Solutions is committed to community development through CSR initiatives such as free cybersecurity training for students at the

University of Lagos and the University of Ghana, tech empowerment workshops on innovation and cybersecurity, and a mentorship program supporting women in tech careers.

Corporate Profile

Tecom IT Solutions is a global system integrator and managed services provider, offering innovative digital solutions across diverse industries. The company specializes in cybersecurity, cloud services, AI solutions, and IT infrastructure management, enabling businesses to stay ahead in an evolving digital landscape.

Corporate Advertisement

Tecom IT Solutions – Your Trusted Digital Transformation Partner! Unlock innovation, protect your business, and thrive in the digital era. Whether it's cybersecurity, cloud services, or AI-driven solutions, Tecom IT Solutions delivers cutting-edge expertise tailored to your needs. Stay secure. Stay ahead. Choose Tecom. Visit www.tecomit.com for more information.

Challenges to Creativity and Innovation & Future Directions

Several challenges threaten creativity and innovation in the tech industry, including: Rapid Technological Changes: Keeping pace with emerging technologies requires continuous learning and adaptation. Talent Shortages: The demand for skilled IT professionals, especially in cybersecurity and AI, surpasses the available workforce. Cybersecurity Risks: Companies must innovate while ensuring that new technologies do not expose them to cyber threats. Resistance to Change: Organizations that resist digital transformation risk falling behind. To address these challenges, companies must: Invest in talent development and training programs. Foster a culture of continuous innovation and knowledge-sharing. Strengthen cybersecurity frameworks to balance innovation with security. Promote cross-industry collaborations to accelerate digital transformation. By embracing these strategies, businesses can ensure long-term innovation and growth in the digital era.





Mr. John Nwachukwu

CEO, Zoracom

Mr. John Nwachukwu is a distinguished technology executive with over a decade of experience in leading digital transformation and innovation. As the Chief Strategy/Executive Officer (CSEO) of Zoracom, he has been at the helm of strategic decision-making, driving forward-thinking initiatives in cybersecurity, network observability, and digital infrastructure management. John's expertise spans across AI, IoT, cybersecurity, and enterprise architecture, which he integrates to position Zoracom at the forefront of Africa's technology evolution. Having served in multiple leadership roles, including Chief Innovation/Executive Officer and Chief Solutions Architect, he has successfully led the company's expansion into cutting-edge technology solutions that power businesses across Nigeria.

Future Plans for Innovation and Creativity

Zoracom is set to redefine digital innovation with bold R&D investments: Smart Network Monitoring – Real-time observability tools for seamless performance tracking. Next-Gen IoT Solutions – Secure, intelligent platforms for connected businesses. AI-Powered Cybersecurity – Cutting-edge defense systems against evolving digital threats. Zoracom is also exploring collaborations with global tech firms and academia to accelerate product development and improve digital transformation in Africa.

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Initiatives

Under John's leadership, Zoracom has launched impactful CSR programs to bridge the digital divide and uplift communities: Tech4All Initiative – Free cybersecurity training for 2,000+ students and young professionals. Digital Skills for Women – Hands-on

mentorship in software development, UI/UX, and digital marketing. STEM Education Support – Donated computers, coding kits, and e-learning tools to underprivileged schools. Innovation Hub Sponsorship – Backing AI, fintech, and cloud computing startups through local incubators.

Corporate Profile

Zoracom is a leading tech innovator, delivering cutting-edge cybersecurity, digital infrastructure, and network observability solutions. Focused on innovation and security, we empower businesses to thrive in the digital era.

Corporate Advertisement

"Innovate. Secure. Lead. At Zoracom, we don't just create technology; we shape the future. Our state-of-the-art cybersecurity, IoT, and infrastructure solutions keep your business ahead in a fast-evolving digital world. Join us in redefining technology—one innovation at a time.

Challenges in the Industry & Future Directions

John Nwachukwu has identified several critical barriers limiting creativity and innovation in Nigeria's tech ecosystem: Infrastructure Deficiencies – Unstable power supply and unreliable internet hinder seamless operations and innovation. Limited Access to Funding – Stringent lending conditions and weak venture capital support restrict startup growth. Regulatory Bottlenecks – Complex, unpredictable policies create operational uncertainties for tech firms.

Future Solutions

To overcome these challenges, John advocates for: Government-Private Sector Partnerships – Investing in broadband expansion and power infrastructure. Funding Reforms – Establishing more venture capital funds and government-backed grants for startups. Regulatory Overhaul – Creating a streamlined regulatory environment to foster innovation-friendly policies. Through these efforts, Zoracom and other industry leaders aim to drive sustainable tech development and position Nigeria as a technology hub.

Zoracom



impulso
Impulso integrated services ltd.

Akinyele Oludare

Managing Director, Impulso Integrated Services Ltd

Mr. Akinyele Oludare is the Managing Director of Impulso Integrated Services Limited, based in Lagos. The company is an Engineering Service Company that uses cutting-edge technologies to support organisations to address their challenges. Oludare has been at the forefront of driving creativity and digital innovation at workplace.

Creativity And Digital Innovation At Workplace

Post COVID-19, Oludare has used creativity and digital innovation to reduce work time and at the same time, increased productivity. As a paperless company that had since gone digital, his company does not have physical interface with workers, as workers now work remotely from anywhere in the country and still produce better results. According to him, "Post COVID, we do virtual meetings, we do virtual trainings. Our accounting system, project management system is 100% digital. Cost of running the company and cost of using paper has dropped significantly, since we went digital. Our going to the office to work physically has also reduced. We don't go to the office five times or six times a week. We only go three times in a week. This has brought about a lot of flexibility at work place and it has helped in increasing productivity at workplace."

Future Plan on Creativity and Innovation

Oludare has big dreams for his company's future plan on creativity and digital innovation. He is gradually shifting from the person-person interface at workplace to a more purposeful management practice of value-driven approach through virtual communication for the future, by moving all the company's activities online.

Challenges

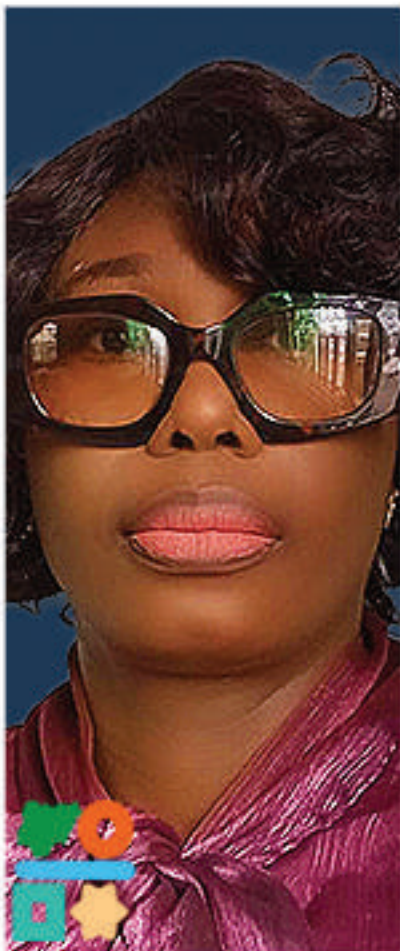
Creativity and digital challenges, no doubt, come with some challenges that impact negatively on companies in different ways.

Oludare identified some of the challenges to include: Paying less attention to physical property like office buildings and space, and battling with increased health challenges of workers who oftentimes get stressed up as a result of staying tight to their computers for continuous online engagement. Another challenge on the part of workers is that some workers use their official time to do private businesses, since they do not report physically in office. Oludare is however of the view that emerging technologies will address all challenges.

CSR Initiative

Impulso Integrated Services Limited is involved in several Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives, by way of giving back to the society where it operates from. Impulso has a Foundation, through which it executes all its CSR initiatives. The Foundation currently supports STORCH, which is focused on developing communities in the Southwest region of Nigeria.

Impulso also supports an orphanage home based in Ibadan, Oyo State, by providing personal items like clothes and food items and also make funds available to the orphanage home on quarterly basis.



Oyesola Awodiya

Managing Director, Ezzential Global Services Limited

Oyesola Awodiya is a seasoned business executive and the Managing Director of Ezzential Global Services Limited. With over 20 years of experience spanning Telecommunications, ICT, Banking, Power Generation, Business Development, Project Management, and Finance, she has consistently demonstrated excellence in leadership and innovation. A graduate of Lagos State University with a degree in Pure and Applied Mathematics, she further honed her business acumen at Lagos Business School. She fosters creativity and digital transformation through an open, collaborative culture. Encouraging risk-taking and learning from failures, she integrates digital tools like Microsoft Teams to enhance teamwork and problem-solving. Her forward-thinking leadership prioritizes continuous learning, keeping employees ahead in the digital era.

Future Plans for Creativity and Innovation

Ezzential Global Services Limited is shaping the future with a creativity-driven strategy: Innovation Labs: Dedicated spaces for testing new tech, building prototypes, and pushing boundaries. Cross-Functional Teams: Focused squads tackling AI, sustainability, and groundbreaking product development. IoT-Powered Workspaces: Smart environments boosting collaboration, efficiency, and creativity. Advanced Analytics: Predictive models spotting trends before the competition. Data-First Culture: Empowering employees with insights for smarter, faster decision-making. Innovation isn't just a goal—it's the engine driving our future!

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Initiatives

Donation Drives – Matching employee contributions to trusted charities and humanitarian causes. Education & Mentorship

– Providing financial aid, skills training, and mentorship to underprivileged communities. Disability Empowerment – Creating job opportunities and essential support for people with disabilities. Community Development – Building schools, health clinics, and community centers in underserved areas.

Corporate Profile

Ezzential Global Services Limited is a leading provider of technology and infrastructure solutions, specializing in: Turnkey BTS Site Construction Tower Infrastructure Audits & Maintenance. Fibre Optics Implementation & Maintenance. In-Built Solutions Deployment With a commitment to innovation, sustainability, and operational excellence, the company continues to shape the future of digital infrastructure in Nigeria and beyond.

Corporate Advertisement

At Ezzential Global Services, we redefine tech and infrastructure with cutting-edge innovation and expertise. From fiber optics to smart solutions, we power your success. Partner with us – where technology meets possibility!

Challenges & Future Directions for Innovation

Despite her relentless push for innovation, Oyesola Awodiya acknowledges significant challenges in the industry: Resistance to Change: Employees accustomed to traditional methods often resist new ways of working. Fear of Failure: A risk-averse culture discourages creative experimentation. Lack of Incentives: Without proper recognition, employees may feel unmotivated to pursue new ideas. Unclear Innovation Strategy: A lack of clear direction can lead to fragmented efforts. Short-Term Focus: The pressure to meet immediate goals often limits the time and resources available for innovation. To thrive, organizations must embrace adaptability, reward innovation, and set a clear vision. Investing in tech and empowering employees keeps businesses ahead of the curve.





Gbenga Nana

Visionary founder and CEO of Notion Technology Limited

Gbenga Nana is the visionary founder and CEO of Notion Technology Limited, a leading telecommunications provider in Nigeria. With over a decade of experience in the industry, Nana has been instrumental in redefining telecom solutions across Nigeria. Holding a BSc in Telecommunications Engineering from the University of Lagos and advanced certifications in network design and fiber optics, he has led Notion Technology with a focus on technical excellence, innovative service delivery, and a commitment to capacity building.

Under his leadership, Notion Technology has become a trusted provider of fiber connectivity, PABX systems, and networking solutions, serving clients ranging from large enterprises to small businesses across Nigeria. By prioritizing quality and affordability, Nana has positioned the company as a reliable partner for businesses in Lagos, Abuja, and beyond.

Nana is a passionate advocate for industry advancement, he addresses key operational issues such as power management and maintenance support. He led the development of flexible payment options, including an 80/20 payment model for emerging businesses, allowing them to access quality telecom solutions with manageable financial terms. Through these initiatives, Notion Technology has expanded access to essential services, empowering more businesses to thrive in Nigeria's digital landscape.

Gbenga Nana's achievements have earned national recognition, exemplified by his inclusion as one of Nigeria's 100 leading telecom and digital personalities. Known for his dedication to raising industry standards and improving service quality.

He is committed to closing Nigeria's digital gap by extending connectivity to underserved areas. His vision includes fostering an innovative ecosystem that supports sustainable development and social progress. He has established technical hubs that not only provide training facilities but also serve as centers for research and development, ensuring continuous innovation in fiber and connectivity solutions.

Recognizing the challenges in Nigeria's telecommunications sector—such as limited infrastructure, high operational costs, and regulatory complexities—Nana has actively sought reforms to drive industry-wide improvements. He advocates for simplified licensing processes and greater investment in digital infrastructure, particularly in rural and underserved communities, to extend access to high-speed internet. His initiatives aim to create an enabling environment where startups can adopt new technologies more easily, ultimately benefiting Nigeria's economy and society.

Gbenga Nana's commitment to Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) demonstrates his strong dedication to making a difference in the community. Through Notion Technology's educational programs, he has fostered partnerships with secondary schools, providing students with access to telecom training workshops that build foundational skills. He reaches out to orphanages and healthcare facilities, providing financial support and resources to underserved communities. This dedication to CSR not only impacts lives but also aligns with his vision of a telecommunications industry that prioritizes both social and economic progress.

As a recognized industry leader, Gbenga Nana's innovative approach, dedication to skill development, and commitment to bridging the digital divide have transformed Notion Technology into a trailblazer in the industry. His leadership is shaping a future where connectivity, knowledge, and opportunity are accessible to all, driving Nigeria toward a digitally empowered tomorrow.





Engr. Makinwa Adetoro

Senior Business Development Manager for West, Central, & Southern Africa at Baicells Technologies Co Ltd.

Engr. Makinwa ADETORO possesses a bachelor's degree in Electrical and Electronic Engineering from Ladoko Akintola University of Technology in Ogbomoso, Oyo State, Nigeria. He bagged a Master's degree in Engineering (Radio Frequency and Microwave Design for Wireless Systems) from the University of Leeds in the United Kingdom. He holds a Master's in Business Administration from the Metropolitan School of Business and Management, London, United Kingdom.

Makinwa ADETORO is a member of the Nigerian Society of Engineers (NSE) and registered engineer with The Council for the Regulation of Engineering in Nigeria (COREN).

After previously working with Huawei and EnergyGrade, Engr. Makinwa ADETORO currently serves as the Senior Business Development Manager for West, Central, and Southern Africa at Baicells Technologies Co Ltd.

Baicells is an international company, providing disruptively priced and technically innovative 4G LTE and 5G NR Access Solutions that connect more than 50 countries across the globe. Its ever-expanding goal to "Connect the Unconnected" has led to the establishment of offices across five of the seven continents and the development of over 300 patents since its inception in 2014.

Baicells currently boasts over 700 private LTE networks across the world, with a large percentage of those trusted networks operating

within North America. To meet growing demand for increased connectivity, Baicells production is booming with manufacturing plants operating in Taiwan, Hong Kong and Vietnam alongside an extensive relationship with global manufacturer, Jabil.

According to Adetoro, being part of the Baicells team is an opportunity for him to further make his marks and contribute his quotas to the African digital economy drive.

He believes that one of the primary challenges hindering business growth and development in Nigeria is the difficulties encountered by customers, particularly concerning foreign exchange (FOREX) issues. These challenges have significantly impacted both short-term and long-term planning for many clients.

Additionally, he stressed that the prevailing pricing dynamics in the country, along with current operational (OPEX) and capital expenditures (CAPEX), indicate that operators will continue facing these difficulties. "This ongoing struggle adversely affects investments aimed at enhancing both capacity and coverage, ultimately impeding efforts to ensure widespread broadband access and penetration. It is essential for industry leaders to collaborate with regulators and government entities to foster mutually beneficial outcomes," he said.

Adetoro represents a fine crop of the vibrant and fully-baked youths with the advanced technical skills required for building a nation that aspires to enjoy digital economy dividends.

Baicells



Johnson Olukayode Aderonmu

CEO, CloudPro NG Limited

Johnson Olukayode Aderonmu, a prominent figure in Nigeria's tech landscape, is celebrated for his leadership in digital innovation and transformation.

Formerly the Chief Technical Officer (CTO) of Internet Solutions Nigeria Limited (ISN), Aderonmu played a pivotal role in expanding ISN's enterprise network infrastructure across Nigeria.

In 2023, he was appointed CEO of CloudPro NG Limited, where he leads a team of experts in delivering technology-driven solutions to solve real-world problems. As an advocate for high-quality internet services in Nigeria, Aderonmu continues to influence the nation's digital economy while mentoring young entrepreneurs and fostering a culture of innovation. With professional certifications in Cisco, Microsoft, ITIL, project management, and more, he emphasizes integrity and excellence in his work.

Under Aderonmu's leadership, CloudPro has remained committed to advancing creativity and innovation by: Encouraging risk-taking and experimentation among employees; Promoting collaboration through events such as hackathons to stimulate idea generation; Investing in continuous learning to stay abreast of emerging technologies; and Leveraging technologies like AI, IoT, Blockchain, and quantum computing to enhance operations. Its commitment to advancing creativity and innovation also include: Prioritizing customer-centric innovation through user research and co-creation;

Forming strategic partnerships with startups, industry leaders, and academic institutions for technology and expertise exchange; Utilizing data-driven decision-making tools, including advanced analytics and predictive systems; and Addressing ethical concerns such as data privacy, responsible AI use, and social impact.

CloudPro NG has not shied away from its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) commitments having completed impactful CSR initiatives, including: Donating books and materials to enhance libraries in government secondary schools in Victoria Island, Lagos; Guiding and mentoring young professionals to enhance skills, foster career development, and empower future leaders. CloudPro believes that while Nigeria has significant potential for creativity and innovation due to its youthful population and dynamic culture, several obstacles and challenges stand on the way to innovation.

The company sees these challenges to include: Poor infrastructure and security challenges, Bureaucratic hurdles and limited funding, Weak enforcement of intellectual property rights, and Cultural norms that often discourage risk-taking. To address these challenges, CloudPro suggests that Nigeria must invest in infrastructure, reform regulatory frameworks, strengthen intellectual property protections, and promote STEM education.

The country must also take crucial steps in supporting innovation hubs, fostering government-backed initiatives, and engaging in international collaborations. These measures will unleash Nigeria's creative potential, driving economic growth and improving the quality of life for its citizens. CloudPro NG's mission is to ensure seamless integration into the evolving digital transformation landscape, providing scalable, cost-efficient, innovative, and resilient cloud services for businesses of all sizes.





Kunle Ogunbufunmi

Chief Operating Officer AFL Networks (Aldreda Fields Limited)

Kunle Ogunbufunmi is a seasoned telecommunications executive with over 25 years of experience, including pivotal roles at major telecom companies like MTN Nigeria. As the founder and managing director of Infranet Limited, Kunle has demonstrated exceptional leadership in the deployment and maintenance of fiber optic networks across Nigeria and West Africa.

Currently based in Lagos, Kunle serves as the Chief Operating Officer of AFL Networks (Aldreda Fields Ltd), where he is at the forefront of revolutionizing open access metro fiber connectivity and penetration in Nigeria. AFL Networks is breaking down barriers to entry for ISPs & digital content providers, democratizing the internet, and providing multiple options for end users through a shared infrastructure. This initiative promotes healthy competition among ISPs, significantly improves internet penetration, and enables technology professionals to participate in the global digital economy.

Kunle has been instrumental in engaging with the United States Trade and Development Agency (USTDA) to conduct a feasibility study, laying the groundwork for the rollout of AFL Networks' ambitious strategy. This strategy aims to develop open access Fiber-to-the-X(FTTx) solutions, creating a comprehensive platform that serves users, Retail Service Providers (RSPs), Network Owners, and Operators. Additionally, AFL Networks has established partnerships with electricity distribution companies in Nigeria to facilitate easier last-mile access, further enhancing connectivity.

Under Kunle's leadership, AFL Networks is not only enhancing internet accessibility but also enabling the delivery of additional services, e.g. IPTV, over the same fiber infrastructure. His efforts are driving the creation of a robust digital ecosystem that supports a wide range of stakeholders and fosters innovation and growth.

Kunle and his teams' strategic vision, operational expertise, and commitment to excellence are evident in his ability to navigate complex challenges and deliver impactful solutions. His work is transforming the telecommunications landscape, making high-quality internet services more accessible and affordable for all.





Dr. Tola Yusuf

Founding Partner, Infratel Africa

Dr. Tola Yusuf is the Co-founder and Executive Director of Infratel Africa, a visionary leader committed to driving digital innovation and enhancing connectivity in Africa. With over two decades of experience in engineering, business strategy, and project management, he has pioneered groundbreaking initiatives that have transformed rural digital landscapes. His expertise in telecommunications has led to the expansion of network accessibility, bridging the digital divide and fostering economic growth in underserved regions. Under his leadership, Infratel Africa has connected over 250 communities and more than 2 million people across Nigeria with reliable voice and data services. His efforts have significantly improved financial inclusion, telemedicine, e-learning, and smart Wi-Fi deployment. With the acquisition of a Mobile Virtual Network Operator (MVNO) license, Dr. Yusuf has strategically positioned Infratel Africa for further growth, ensuring broader digital access and technological advancement in the telecommunications sector.

Future Plans for Innovation and Creativity

Infratel Africa is expanding digital infrastructure in underserved areas with smart Wi-Fi and competitive backhaul technology. The company is also driving smart city solutions, integrating IoT for improved lighting, traffic management, and waste disposal. Additionally, Infratel is exploring AI-powered precision farming to boost rural agriculture through drones, data analytics, and automated irrigation.

CSR Initiatives

Digital Literacy Training: Providing free technology education to rural communities, equipping them with essential skills in computer usage, internet navigation, and e-commerce. **School Connectivity:**

Partnering with rural schools to provide subsidized or free internet for e-learning. **Women in Tech:** Empowering female entrepreneurs with digital tools, business training, and online market access. **Green Energy:** Deploying solar-powered connectivity to enhance sustainability in remote areas.

Corporate Profile

Infratel Africa is a leading telecommunications infrastructure service provider in Nigeria, dedicated to bridging the digital divide through cutting-edge technology and strategic partnerships. The company's innovative approach to network deployment and service expansion has positioned it as a key player in Africa's digital transformation journey.

Corporate Advertisement

"Experience the Future with Infratel Africa! Revolutionizing connectivity, empowering communities, and transforming lives through innovation. Join us as we build a smarter, more connected Africa. Visit www.infratelafrica.com to learn more!"

Challenges to Innovation and the Path Forward

Infrastructure Deficit: Limited fiber optic networks, unreliable internet, and power outages hinder digital growth. **Regulatory Bottlenecks:** Slow approvals, heavy taxation, and outdated policies stifle progress. **Investment Gaps:** High costs deter expansion in underserved areas.

Solutions: Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs): Shared investment in telecom infrastructure. **Alternative Technologies:** Satellite broadband, solar-powered base stations, and microgrids. **Regulatory Reforms:** Streamlined policies, innovation-friendly regulations, and regulatory sandboxes for tech experimentation. By fostering a more flexible and supportive regulatory environment, Yusuf believes Nigeria can unlock new opportunities in digital transformation and ensure sustained technological progress.



Mr. Tunji Alabi

Managing Director, Infratel Africa

Mr. Tunji Alabi is the Managing Director of Infratel Africa, a five-year old infrastructure company that provides a variety of services to the mobile network operators in the area of co-location.

Infratel Africa is strategically focused on rural transformation, which is all about bridging the digital divide when it comes to the unserved and underserved communities in the country. The company partners with MNOs to provide connectivity services in the rural communities.

Creativity And Digital Innovation

From the inception of the company, Infratel Africa has promoted creativity at workplace, with strong belief in developing young workers in the organization. Its goal is to develop the Gen Z's in and encourage them to be part of the company's growth trajectory, because the company believes that innovation and creativity come with the young ones that are tech savvy.

The company puts a lot of creativity in place when providing 2G, 3G, 4G and 5G connectivity services, alongside a portfolio of value-added services in communities. Through creativity and digital innovation, the company provides services like agency banking, telemedicine, solar-based cold rooms, e-learning, power-as-a-service, among others. "So, the things that we do day-to-day lend itself to creativity and innovation because we are breaking new grounds," Alabi said.

Future Plan on Creativity and Innovation

For future plan, Infratel Africa has an array of portfolio of technology services that it intends to execute in communities where it operates.

With its Mobile Virtual Network Operating License, Infratel Africa plans to sell its own SIM cards, which will encompass the eSIM cards. It plans to put all its community services on its own SIM card, to enable easy payment of the services it offers to communities. The company is currently driving creativity and digital innovation through various channels. None of its co-location sites uses generator, as they are all powered by solar generated energy and wind generated energy.

Challenges

Alabi identified lack of access to funds and the mindset of workers as some of the major challenge impeding creativity and digital innovation at workplace. "It takes a lot of persistence and change management, to control the behaviour of workers and humans are the most difficult things to control at work place and this is a challenge to organization like Infratel Africa," Alabi said.

CSR Initiative

Infratel Africa is big on Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives, supporting the communities in which they operate, by giving back to the rural communities. To mark its 5th anniversary, Infratel Africa engaged one of the primary schools in Ogun State, where it had public lecture with the pupils on career counseling. The company also distributed items to the pupils and the school, such as exercise books and text books.



Mohamad Rachid Singer

CEO and Executive Technical Leader at Bedrock Multi Functions (BMF) Limited

Mohamad Rachid Singer is a results-driven executive-level technical leader with over 26 years of expertise in Information Technology (IT) and Telecommunications. His extensive experience spans various industries, with a proven track record of driving business growth, network security, energy-saving initiatives, and cloud computing. Singer's professional journey began in 1999 at MTN (AREEBA Network part of invest-com group), where he was part of the team that built the first GSM network in Syria and launched the first call successfully. He held various roles, including Technical Core network supervisor, responsible for the core network, and was among the team that installed the first BTS, BSC, and TRAU.

In 2003, Singer joined Siemens, where he worked on various projects, including the rollout of a new greenfield network in Iran and upgrading all MSC to the latest software version in Yemen. He also provided technical remote support for the IRAQ Talia network from Dubai.

Singer's subsequent roles at CELTEL Nigeria, ZAIN Nigeria, and Airtel Nigeria further honed his skills in network operations, management, and leadership. He achieved network operation excellence, drove budget and operational expenses, and achieved major network KPIs. He also led roaming teams, improved roaming experiences, and oversaw massive fiber deployments.

As Vice President of Network Services at Airtel Nigeria, Singer developed efficient major products and services, handled huge data traffic and capacity, and complied with regulatory requirements. He led network expansion initiatives, optimized OPEX and CAPEX, and drove data growth year-over-year.

In 2018, Singer joined PAN African Towers (PAT) as Chief Technical Officer (CTO), where he set up the company end-to-end, developing operational processes and procedures, quality assurance, and operational excellence. He improved network availability from 94% to 99%, reduced diesel application per site, and improved team efficiency.

Singer is currently the CEO and Executive Technical Leader at Bedrock Multi Functions (BMF) Limited, where he acts as a sales agent for Airtel Nigeria for the enterprise sector. He has achieved income increases, developed company strategies, and optimized operational costs. Throughout his career, Singer has demonstrated exceptional leadership skills, driving business growth, network security, energy-saving initiatives, and cloud computing. His expertise spans various areas, including processes and procedures, data center management, multi-vendor relations, green energy, and operation excellence.

He holds a Bachelor of Science in Electronic and Communication Engineering and has completed various training programs, including a Mini-MBA, Project Management Professional (PMP) certification, and numerous technical trainings from Siemens, Ericsson, and Huawei. He has received several awards and recognition, including the Best Performance Engineer Oscar from Airtel Africa and an appreciation letter for implementing the RIC IRAN Turnkey Project. Singer's commitment to excellence, resilience, and ability to work independently in ambiguous situations make him a valuable asset to any organization.

In conclusion, Mohamad Rachid Singer is a highly respected leader in the IT and Telecommunications industries. His extensive experience, combined with his passion for innovation and customer satisfaction, make him an exceptional leader and expert in driving business growth, network security, energy-saving initiatives, and cloud computing. With people like him, Africa's digital future is bright.





Jane Egerton-Idehen

Chief Executive Officer, NIGCOMSAT

Jane Egerton-Idehen is a distinguished technology executive with over 20 years of leadership experience in telecommunications, technology, and the satellite industry. As the Managing Director, MD and CEO of Nigerian Communications Satellite Limited (NIGCOMSAT), she has been at the forefront of digital transformation, driving strategic growth and innovation. Her previous roles at Meta, Avanti Communications, Ericsson, and Nokia Siemens Networks have positioned her as a thought leader in emerging markets, strategic consulting, and innovative technology solutions. Egerton-Idehen has a strong track record of fostering creativity within the tech ecosystem. At NIGCOMSAT, she has spearheaded initiatives that leverage satellite technology for digital connectivity, bridging the gap between rural and urban communities. She has also been instrumental in mentoring young professionals and advocating for women's participation in STEM fields.

NIGCOMSAT's Future Plans for Innovation and Creativity

NIGCOMSAT is dedicated to expanding digital access and fostering innovation in Nigeria's satellite and ICT sectors. The company recently hosted the inaugural Nigerian Satellite Week, bringing together industry stakeholders to showcase technological advancements and discuss the sector's future. A key focus is replacing the NIGCOMSAT-1R satellite before its lifespan ends in 2026, ensuring continuity in Nigeria's space communications infrastructure. The company also plans to scale its NIGCOMSAT Accelerator Program, supporting startups that leverage satellite technology to develop innovative solutions. Additionally, NIGCOMSAT aims to enhance digital inclusion in underserved areas, fostering job creation and economic diversification through satellite connectivity.



Driving Impact Through CSR

NIGCOMSAT Accelerator: Empowering startups with satellite tech, awarding N9M to top innovators. **Women & Career Initiative:** Revamping libraries, donating tech, bridging the digital divide. **Education & Mentorship:** Funding scholarships, uplifting underserved communities, and creating opportunities for the next generational leaders. **Advocacy & Leadership:** First woman to deliver the Herbert Macaulay Memorial Lecture on digital transformation, inspiring innovation and economic progress.

Corporate Profile of NIGCOMSAT

NIGCOMSAT: Powering Nigeria's Digital Future. Leading connectivity, innovation, and security with cutting-edge satellite technology. Delivering faster internet, smarter solutions, and stronger security across Africa. **NIGCOMSAT – Shaping the Future!**

Corporate Advertisement

NIGCOMSAT: Connecting Nigeria, Empowering Growth! Driving satellite innovation, expanding digital access, and creating opportunities. Join us in shaping a more connected future!

Barriers to Innovation in Nigeria's Tech & Satellite Industry

Funding Gaps: Startups struggle to scale due to limited investment. **Weak Infrastructure:** Poor connectivity stifles digital expansion. **Talent Shortages:** Lack of specialized training slows innovation.

Solutions for a Thriving Future

Boost Investments: Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) to fund infrastructure. **Build Talent:** Stronger skill development programs. **Fuel Innovation:** More hubs and accelerators for startups. With the right strategy, Nigeria's ICT sector will drive growth, expand digital access, boost job creation, enhance technological advancements, and fuel lasting innovation, positioning the nation as a leader in the global digital economy.



Uche Onwudiwe

MD/CEO of COURE Technologies Inc

Uche Onwudiwe, MD/CEO of COURE Technologies Inc., is a distinguished technology leader with over 25 years of experience in management and business leadership. He founded COURE in 1998, a fintech company that specializes in centralizing data access and delivering standardized analytics, helping financial institutions and telecom businesses enhance efficiency.

Uche's approach combines a deep understanding of technology with the ability to conceptualize and implement market-specific solutions. His leadership consistently drives enterprise value through a focus on innovation, strategic planning, and customer engagement. Throughout his career, Uche has demonstrated expertise in areas such as marketing, business development, operational strategy, and technology architecture. His capacity to motivate cross-functional teams has resulted in high-quality solutions tailored to client needs. From early explorations in digital arts to leading fintech innovations, Uche's career reflects a progressive commitment to blending technology with creativity.

Uche's strategic vision for COURE includes a roadmap titled Vision 2025, which prioritizes empowering innovation, optimizing API capabilities, and fostering industry collaboration. Key pillars include advancements in AI, IoT integration, and user-centered design improvements. Initiatives like purpose-driven hackathons and industry partnerships aim to position COURE as a leader in innovation. COURE has distinguished itself as a leader in platform development, offering innovative solutions such as the All Number Query and Hub Platforms. Through its commitment to innovation, the company has carved a niche in the digital solutions industry by collaborating with clients passionate about addressing customer needs.

The company's extensive experience spans various sectors, allowing it to adapt its technology to suit diverse business needs. COURE has developed expertise in areas such as routing, fraud prevention, value-added services (VAS) provisioning, and aggregator management, delivering exceptional solutions tailored to its clients.

With a commitment to excellence, COURE has conducted billions of number lookups and supported millions of clients across continents while adhering to global regulatory standards. This success is attributed to its dynamic, multi-disciplinary team of professionals. COURE carefully selects and trains its personnel to ensure the highest standards of service delivery, maintaining its position as an industry leader.

COURE has undertaken impactful CSR initiatives such as: Tech Internship Program (2008-2022): Trained over 30 university graduates in tech skills; Developer Partnership Program (2022-2024): Provided hands-on training to Decagon graduates; and Fraud Prevention Awareness Campaign (2020-2024): Conducted webinars for over 100 participants on KYC and fraud prevention.

Uche identifies several barriers to creativity in the industry, including risk aversion, budget constraints, resistance to change, and a lack of diversity. Overreliance on traditional methods and inadequate training exacerbate these issues. To counteract these challenges, Uche advocates for fostering diversity, encouraging calculated risks, and investing in iterative processes and continuous learning.

By tackling these obstacles, Uche envisions a future where organizations can sustain innovation, drive growth, and create meaningful social impact. His leadership exemplifies how technology, creativity, and strategic vision can converge to address industry needs and achieve transformative results.





Olumide Idowu

Expert in development and execution of Technology and Digital Transformation Strategies; International Project & Program Management; Network & Infrastructure Planning & Design, Network Roll-Out; Operations Management; Vendor Management & formulation of Strategic Partnerships.

Olumide IDOWU is a multi-discipline, customer-focused and techno-commercially savvy C-Suite executive with over 23 years of international IT and Telecommunications management experience. He is one of the pioneers in the post-traditional telecommunications and IT industries in Nigeria and has a strong passion for the continuous evolution of the two industries in the country.

He has a proven track record of managing projects and programs across diverse cultures and international borders; designing and building telecommunications and IT networks; developing, managing and leading cross-functional teams; as well as developing and executing future-proofed technology evolution and digital transformation strategies.

He possesses verifiable records of consistently high performances in domains including Strategy Formulation and Execution; International Project and Program Management; Pre-Sales and Post-Sales Management; Customer Value Management and end-to-end Management of Software Solutions Delivery.

Furthermore, he is an expert in Network and Infrastructure Planning & Design; Network Roll-Out; Operations Management; Vendor Management and formulation of Strategic Partnerships. He has also led the delivery of innovative solutions in Cloud and Edge Computing; Artificial Intelligence and Cyber Security.

Olumide possesses a very strong drive for managing Profit and Loss (P&L) as well as strong leadership, critical thinking and problem solving skills. He is an advocate for increasing women's participation in STEM and is ardent proponent of the use of Information and Communications Technologies to improve global living standards with focus on rapidly bridging digital divide in Africa. His vision is the complete democratization of the Internet and a digitally connected Africa in the nearest possible future.

He an international conference speaker; has worked for several leading local and multinational organisations; won several awards and accolades in the course of his career including recognition for the application of program management in successful delivery of non-technical initiatives; attended several international executive education programs and acquired a Master of Business Administration degree in international business management from Blekinge Institute of Technology, Sweden.



Segun H. Olugbile Amb. (Hon.)

Chairman, Data Analytics Privacy Technologies

Segun H. Olugbile Amb.(Hon.) is a visionary leader in cybersecurity, digital policy, and innovation, boasting over 20 years of impactful experience. As Chairman of Data Analytics Privacy Technologies, a pioneer Data Protection Compliance Organization, and President of the Global Network for Cybersolution, Segun H. Olugbile Amb.(Hon.) has been instrumental in shaping Nigeria's digital landscape. His advocacy has led to foundational initiatives like Nigeria's first National Cybersecurity Policy and Strategy and the establishment of the National Cybersecurity Coordination Center. His leadership has fostered collaborations across public, private, and international sectors, earning him recognition as Nigeria's Cybersecurity Advocate of the Year (2024).

Driving Innovation and Creativity

Under Segun H. Olugbile Amb.(Hon.) leadership, future plans for creativity and innovation include the development of indigenous cybersecurity solutions tailored to Nigeria's unique needs, focusing on advanced AI and IoT strategies. His organization also aims to bridge digital access gaps through strategic infrastructure investments, fostering a resilient digital economy.

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Initiatives

Segun H. Olugbile Amb.(Hon.) CSR initiatives reflect his commitment to societal growth and technological advancement. Notable programs include:

- The Nigeria Child Online Protection Programme, promoting online safety.
- The Cybersecurity Community Awareness and Mentorship Program, which has empowered over 3,000 Nigerian youths.
- The GNC-Emerging Technology Skills for Africa Initiative (GNC-ETeSA), training over 1,000 youths in AI and cybersecurity.

- Long-term support for the Nigeria Internet Governance Forum, advocating digital inclusion and policy development.

Corporate Profile

Data Analytics Privacy Technologies specializes in cybersecurity, data protection, and emerging technology solutions. With a mission to safeguard the digital transformation of Nigerian businesses and public institutions, the company is a leader in creating innovative, indigenous digital solutions aligned with international standards.

Corporate Advertisement

"Secure Your Digital Future with Us"

At Data Analytics Privacy Technologies, we empower organizations to thrive in an interconnected world. With cutting-edge cybersecurity solutions and a commitment to innovation, we secure your tomorrow—today. Partner with us for a safer, smarter digital journey.

Obstacles to Creativity and Innovation in Nigeria

Challenges such as unstable electricity supply, insufficient funding, outdated regulations, cybersecurity threats, and the "japa" brain drain hinder Nigeria's creative potential. Despite these obstacles, the nation leads Africa in fintech innovation, showcasing immense potential for growth.

Future Directions

To overcome these challenges, Nigeria must:

- Invest in reliable power infrastructure and innovation hubs.
- Foster indigenous funding mechanisms for startups.
- Simplify regulatory frameworks to encourage innovation.
- Promote digital literacy and STEM education.
- Enhance cybersecurity measures and intellectual property protections.

By addressing these issues, Nigeria can create a robust ecosystem for creativity and digital innovation, driving national development.





Abayomi Adebajo

**Regional Business Head & General Counsel,
MainOne Cable Company**

Abayomi Adebajo is both the Regional Business Head & General Counsel at MainOne Cable Company, a leading provider of innovative telecom services and network solutions for businesses in West Africa. A seasoned legal expert, Adebajo's career trajectory spans banking, finance and oil and gas, FMCG and telecommunications."

By virtue of his pivotal role in foremost West Africa's digital infrastructure service provider, Adebajo has been a key force in regional ICT growth and development, overseeing not just the company's sales and operations but key functions (transactional, corporate commercial, regulatory and compliance and company's secretarial responsibilities). His presence in a Main One has facilitated major deals and draws juicy investment enriching Africa's tech profile.

Some of them include :Development of a tier III data center in Nigeria and Ghana, buildout of 1000km of fibre optic cables in collaboration with Facebook in Edo & Ogun State, landing party arrangements for the buildout of an OTT submarine cable in the South-South region of Nigeria and extension of the MainOne Cable to Cameroon, Senegal and Cote D'Ivoire, project financing of the 1st Fibre Optic Cable in Nigeria, structuring of the 1st World Bank Partial Risk Guaranteed Facility Financing, and development of credit enhancements for infrastructure debt financing through Infracredit Limited, amongst others.

Bringing to bear his expertise and knowledge garnered from advanced citadel, including Lagos Business School, London School of Economics, MIT and College of Law, England and Wales, he has spearheaded laudable innovative initiatives that continue to stands test of time in Nigeria's tech history. He speaks on efforts of MainOne to continue to foster innovation and creativity through scaling investments in broadband infrastructure and data center built within Nigeria and beyond, leveraging the global reach of the company's parent company, 'Equinix' .

The multi- award winning icon hints at the firm's plans to build a new digital gateway in the South-South Region on the back of its landing of the 2Africa Cable System, to complement terrestrial metro fiber. It is believed that establishing 1st Data Center in the South region of Nigeria will further accelerate internet penetration, improve latency in Africa and enhance cable resiliency and redundancy, thus drives innovation.

Besides dedication to industry growth, humanity to Adebajo is paramount, hence his Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) led project targeting education, sustainable cities and communities.

"I am committed and have been involved in ideating and fundraising toward these causes in my local community as well as at my workplace", he says.

On further encouraging innovation and creativity boom, he says government needs to address, multiple taxation, lack of cost reflective tariff regime and loose data domiciliation laws. He wants significant forex needs to meet capital expenditure.





Abiola Jimoh

Co-founder of XchangeBox

...Driving Creativity and Innovation in Fintech

Abiola Jimoh, the co-founder of XchangeBox, has been at the forefront of digital financial transformation in Nigeria. Under his leadership, XchangeBox has grown into one of the fastest-expanding fintech companies, providing seamless financial solutions to underserved communities. His passion for leveraging technology to drive economic inclusion has been instrumental in reshaping Nigeria's financial landscape. XchangeBox leverages blockchain, AI, and machine learning to create innovative financial solutions, tackling challenges faced by traders, farmers, and small businesses across Nigeria.

Future Plans: Advancing Innovation and Creativity

XchangeBox is set to revolutionize agricultural financing and trade with its flagship product, AgroMatch—a blockchain-based peer-to-peer platform that connects agro-commodity traders with investors. This platform enables seamless trade financing, reducing barriers to market entry and increasing efficiency in supply chains. By leveraging smart contracts, AgroMatch ensures transparency and speed in trade transactions.

Additionally, XchangeBox is working on cross-border payment solutions that simplify international remittances for businesses and individuals. With a strong focus on leveraging AI and machine learning, the company aims to enhance the efficiency and security of financial transactions, ensuring accessibility for all.

Commitment to Corporate Social Responsibility

XchangeBox has demonstrated a strong commitment to social impact through various initiatives, including:

BVN Enrollment for Rural Dwellers: Facilitating **Bank Verification Number (BVN) registration** for over 3,000 unbanked individuals in Zamfara State, enabling them to access formal financial services.

Financial Literacy Programs for Women Traders: Providing training on credit access, insurance, and financial management for female entrepreneurs in Nasarawa and the FCT.

Digitization of Rural Traders' Financial Records: Assisting market traders in transitioning from cash-based transactions to digital financial management, improving their ability to secure credit.

Corporate Profile

XchangeBox is a fintech leader providing digital financial services, trade financing, and financial inclusion. Using advanced technology, it bridges financial gaps, empowering traders, businesses, and rural communities with seamless transactions.

Corporate Advertisement

"Empowering Africa's Future!"

Join the revolution with **XchangeBox**—bringing solutions to traders, farmers, and businesses. From trade financing to cross-border payments, we are your trusted partner in growth. **XchangeBox—Innovate. Connect. Empower.**

Overcoming Challenges in Digital Innovation

Despite Nigeria's progress in fintech, challenges such as poor infrastructure, limited digital literacy, regulatory barriers, and funding constraints hinder creativity and innovation. To address these issues, stakeholders must: **Invest in Infrastructure:** Improve power supply and expand broadband access. **Enhance Digital Education:** Develop training programs for emerging tech skills. **Streamline Regulations:** Foster a business-friendly environment for startups. **Encourage Public-Private Partnerships:** Drive innovation through collaboration between the private sector, government, and educational institutions.

Through his **visionary leadership and relentless innovation**, Abiola Jimoh is shaping the future of digital finance, driving economic growth, and making financial inclusion a reality for millions.





Professor Adeniran Isola Oluwaranti

**Director of the Linkages and Partnership Office,
Obafemi Awolowo University (OAU)**

Prof. Adeniran Isola Oluwaranti is a distinguished academic and researcher in Computer Science and Engineering. Currently serving as Director of the Linkages and Partnership Office at Obafemi Awolowo University (OAU), Ile-Ife, he has made significant contributions to the field. After completing his Bachelor's degree in Computer Engineering in 1994 and Ph.D. in Computer Science in 2007, Prof. Oluwaranti began his academic career as a Systems Engineer before joining OAU's Computer Science & Engineering Department. His research interests include Data Networks, Cybersecurity, Pervasive and Mobile Computing, Internet of Things applications, and Engineering Education.

Prof. Oluwaranti's impressive academic trajectory includes serving as Visiting Associate Professor and Head of Department at LeadCity University from 2008 to 2010 and Visiting Research Scholar at Colorado State University in 2013. He has authored and co-authored over 50 publications in reputable local and international journals and conferences. As a dedicated educator, Prof. Oluwaranti has chaired the University Web Ranking Committee and successfully led OAU's rise to 1st in Nigeria's Cybernetics Web Ranking. He is a registered engineer with COREN and a senior member of IEEE, ACM, Nigeria Society of Engineers, and Nigeria Computer Society. In 2009, Prof. Oluwaranti founded the Pervasive and Mobile Computing Research Group (PMCRG), which focuses on developing and deploying mobile computing resources in diverse areas. Under his supervision, the group has graduated three Ph.D. and nine students, with six Ph.D., two M.Phil, and eight students currently under his mentorship.

Looking ahead, Prof. Oluwaranti plans to expand his research in mobile computing and IoT, foster interdisciplinary collaboration, enhance wireless communications, and establish international partnerships. As Director of the Linkages and Partnership Office, he aims to secure funding and resources for research initiatives driving technological advancements. At OAU, Prof. Oluwaranti has contributed to initiatives addressing the digital access gap and improving service quality in Nigeria. These include developing robust ICT infrastructure, establishing centers of excellence like the Africa Centre of Excellence in ICT-driven Knowledge Park, deploying wireless network solutions, and partnering with organizations like the World Bank.

Through his remarkable career, Prof. Oluwaranti has demonstrated exceptional leadership, mentorship, and research expertise, significantly impacting Nigeria's technological progress. His dedication to shaping the next generation of engineers and computer scientists ensures a brighter future for the nation.

As a professor at Nigeria's foremost IT University, Prof. Adeniran Isola Oluwaranti considers it a privilege to shape young engineers and computer scientists. He contributes to academic and professional development, mentoring the next generation of researchers and professionals. His future plans focus on expanding mobile computing and IoT in health, agriculture, and environmental applications through interdisciplinary collaboration.

The university addresses the digital access gap through initiatives like robust ICT infrastructure, centres of excellence, and wireless network solutions. Partnerships with organizations like the World Bank bring ICT resources into education. Research and community outreach aim to reduce the digital divide in rural Nigeria, providing affordable internet access and technology-driven solutions for healthcare and agriculture. These efforts ensure Nigeria remains competitive in the global digital economy, driving technological advancements and societal progress and Professor Oluwaranti is a key player facilitating the process.





Engr. Adeola Ogundele

Technical Director/CEO Crystalfix Nig Ltd

Engr. Adeola Ogundele is the Technical Director/CEO Crystalfix Nig Ltd, a company in Telecom, IT and Electrical Services. As a seasoned Telecommunications and IT professional, he is a self-motivated, well organized, dedicated professional and a valuable member of the Nigeria ICT world. He is highly skilled Telecommunications and Engineering professional with extensive experience spanning telecommunications, fiber optics, renewable energy, and project management. With a strong technical foundation, an excellent ability to quickly adapt to new technologies and a customer-centric approach, he has consistently delivered innovative solutions and outstanding results in the industry.

He has worked on, manage and deliver multi-million-dollar projects across different verticals and sectors within Africa (Nigeria, Tchad, Niger, Republic of Benin, Togo, Ghana, Democratic Republic of Congo e.t.c) .He has several reputable industry accreditations and has given technical support to several Telecommunications Operators and OEMs (MTN, Bharti Airtel, Ntel, EMTS, Globacom, Huawei, Nokia, ZTE, Ericson, Rakuten, Airspan and others with Skill in planning, implementing, integrating and managing technologies from leading vendors, ensuring seamless operations and enhanced network performance.

Adeola has over 18 Years of experience in 2G/3G/4G/5G RF Planning, KPI Optimization and Drive Test, Optimization with proficiency in optimizing mobile networks for performance and reliability, leveraging his expertise across multiple generations of mobile technology. He has proven experience in deploying and managing fiber optic networks, ensuring high-speed connectivity for enterprises and consumers alike.

Adeola is passionate about sustainability and has led the implementation of solar and renewable energy projects to drive energy efficiency and environmental responsibility with a proven track record in end-to-end (E2E) project deployment, ensuring seamless execution from initiation to completion, while meeting budget and timeline objectives.

Adeola's focus on understanding and addressing customer needs ensures enhanced satisfaction, while his strong communication skills promote collaboration across teams and stakeholders.

He is known as a collaborative team player and effective leader, Adeola has trained and mentored over 400 RF Engineers in Nigeria and beyond, empowering the next generation of professionals to excel in the field.

Engr. Adeola Ogundele pays special attention to professional, social and Family matters hence his membership of some key professional, Social, and Environmental organizations both within and Outside Nigeria as a Member of the Nigerian Society of Engineers (MNSE) and a COREN-certified professional, embodies excellence and innovation. His diverse skill set, dedication to capacity building, and passion for advancing technology make him a pivotal figure in driving progress within the telecommunications and engineering industries.





Engr. Ajibade Adetayo

CEO, Alpha Crown Engineering Associates Ltd

Engr. AJIBADE, Adetayo is a Nigerian with diverse forms of professional skills, he holds B. ENG in Civil Engineering from Federal University of Technology Akure and M. Sc In Civil & Environmental Engineering (Water Resource Engineering) from University of Lagos, he is a COREN registered engineer and certified with Nigeria Institute of Management. He equally has certification in IBM Mobile First, Google Cloud Platform and Artificial Intelligence and Internet of Things (AIOT) to mention a few.

He has worked on civil engineering (structural engineering), water engineering, construction and enterprise software development projects in the telecom industry in the country. He holds the State Honor Award from the Nigeria State Government. He has equally served as the General Secretary of Nigerian Institution of Civil Engineers Lagos State Chapter. He's a passionate speaker and distinguish guest at different international fora.

Adetayo has always promoted the use of telecommunication devices in project management and efficient delivery of engineering services and project especially in the infrastructural space.

Alpha Crown Engineering Associates Ltd plans to go digital in operations and service delivery by going full digital using AIOT with digital twin technology reducing cost by 30 %, reduced time consumption and getting to Net Zero on our carbon foot print.

We at Alpha Crown Engineering Associates Ltd have always been advocating the early telecommunications technology adoption within teenagers by promoting science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) by going to secondary school within Lagos state giving voluntary awareness and motivation.

Alpha Crown Engineering Associates Ltd is an innovative, engineering and technology company focus on infrastructural development, use of telecommunication systems, devices to enhance problem solving and solution provision across board. The telecommunications industry is suffering from three major problem

- 1) Deficiency in research, planning and development.
- 2) The lack of enforcement of Local Content Law in the industry.
- 3) Lack of deliberate collaboration, strategic alignment and solidarity.

We think that more funding into research, local production of electronic chips and sensor and integrated collaboration would solve all this challenges.





Alhaji Sheriff Bello

Managing Director/CEO, Next Generation Technology Limited.

Biography

Alhaji Sheriff Bello, a distinguished entrepreneur and technologist, hails from Iyamoye-Ijumu in Ijumu Local Government Area of Kogi State, Nigeria. Born in Lokoja, the Kogi State capital some 52 years ago, he has established himself as a leading figure in the ICT sector.

Education

Alhaji Bello's educational journey began at Holy Trinity primary school Lokoja, from where he proceeded to Government Technical College Jebba for his three years basic education and afterwards to Government Technical College New- Bussa where he completed his three years craft training leading to the award of WAEC Technical Certificate equivalent of the London City and Guide in 1989. The trade test certificate and the Federal Craft Certificate. In his quest to enhance his technical knowledge capability he furthered his education at the Kwara State Polytechnic Ilorin where he obtained his National Diploma Certificate in Electrical/Electronic Engineering and then to the Federal Polytechnic Ado- Ekiti where he bagged, his Higher National Diploma in Telecoms/Electronics Engineering in the year 2000.

After he completed his national youth Service Corp in the year 2001, Alhaji Sheriff Bello began his professional career with the Defunct National Electrical Power Authority formerly (NEPA) now (PHCN) where he served his mandatory one-year NYSC.

Alhaji Sheriff Bello also holds a Postgraduate Diploma in Management Science from the Ladoke Akintola University of Technology, Ogbomosho, in Oyo State Nigeria.





Ayodeji Adedeji

**Chief Technical & Information Officer (CTIO),
9mobile Nigeria**

Ayodeji Adedeji is a visionary leader with over 25 years of experience driving technological advancements in the telecommunications industry. Throughout his career, he has successfully spearheaded the adoption of cutting-edge technologies such as 4G, 5G, and IP networks. As the Chief Technical and Information Officer (CTIO) of 9mobile Nigeria, Ayodeji has been instrumental in crafting and executing a robust digital transformation strategy, fostering innovation in network operations, cloud technologies, and data analytics. His leadership style emphasizes collaboration, creative problem-solving, and delivering impactful solutions that keep his organization ahead of the curve.

Future Plans for Innovation and Creativity

Under Ayodeji's leadership, 9mobile aims to transform Nigeria's digital landscape by:

- * Expanding 5G coverage to boost connectivity and business services.
- * Investing in AI-driven data analytics for better customer experiences and efficiency.
- * Launching a cybersecurity initiative to safeguard its network and users.
- * Partnering with startups and institutions to promote innovation and skill development.
- * Developing smart city solutions with IoT technologies for urban sustainability.

Previous CSR Initiatives

Ayodeji's organization has demonstrated a strong commitment to social responsibility through initiatives such as: Digital Literacy Programs: Partnering with schools to provide ICT training and resources for underprivileged students. Health Awareness Campaigns: Supporting national health initiatives through free telehealth services and SMS-based awareness drives. Environmental Sustainability:

Implementing e-waste recycling programs and planting trees to combat deforestation. Youth Empowerment: Hosting hackathons and entrepreneurship workshops to nurture tech talent. Disaster Relief Efforts: Providing free call and data services to affected regions during emergencies.

Corporate Profile

9mobile is one of the leading telecommunications companies in Nigeria, delivering reliable and innovative connectivity solutions to millions of customers. Renowned for its focus on customer-centric services and cutting-edge technologies, 9mobile is at the forefront of digital transformation in Nigeria.

Corporate Advertisement

"Empowering Your World with Connectivity and Innovation!" At 9mobile, we believe in transforming lives through technology. From blazing-fast 5G networks to smart enterprise solutions, we connect you to opportunities that matter. Join us in building a smarter, more connected future—because with 9mobile, the possibilities are endless.

Challenges to Creativity and Innovation in the Telecommunications Industry: Infrastructural Deficiencies: Poor infrastructure limits service expansion and innovation. High Operational Costs: Rising expenses reduce investments in R&D. Talent Shortage: A skills gap hampers technological advancements. Cybersecurity Threats: Growing risks deter adoption of emerging technologies. Limited Financing: Difficulty in securing funding slows innovation efforts.

Future Directions

The organization focuses on public-private infrastructure investment, cost optimization through green technologies, skill development via training and partnerships, enhanced cybersecurity measures, and expanding financing opportunities through venture capital and policy reforms. Ayodeji Adedeji and his team at 9mobile are committed to overcoming challenges and advancing innovation in Nigeria's telecommunications industry and beyond.





Ayowándé Adálémọ

Founder and CEO of Wave 5 Wireless Limited

Ayowándé Adálémọ (FIDPM), the Founder and CEO of Wave 5 Wireless Limited, is a distinguished serial entrepreneur with extensive ability in Telecommunications, Wi-Fi, and Software Development. With 23 years of hands-on experience in the wireless industry, including 20 years focused on broadband technologies, he leads a dedicated team at Wave 5 Wireless.

Their mission is to accelerate hyper-connected consumer clusters in Sub-Saharan Africa and to reimagine the creation, provision, distribution, and monetization of value through Next Generation Wi-Fi technology, Cloud, and Value-Added services over a pervasive Broadband Network.

Ayowándé has made significant contributions to the ISP/telco industry, emphasizing innovation that prioritizes the telecom consumer. In 2012, he launched Nigeria's first and largest Metro-Wi-Fi network through his first startup, Oxygen Broadband Networks Limited, starting with Computer Village, Ikeja, as the pilot phase of an ambitious statewide Wi-Fi project. This initiative was supported by a Level 2 Data Center capable of accommodating over 1,000,000 Wi-Fi devices, with more than 200,000 devices connected within just 24 months of its launch.

Oxygen Broadband boasted over 80 active Wi-Fi hotspots across Lagos. In April 2013, Oxygen Broadband was recognized as the Wi-Fi Company of the Year at the 'TITIAN of TECH' awards. Ayowándé's innovative approach led to a partnership with Chicken Republic, Nigeria's leading Quick Service Restaurant, across all their locations in September

2013. The engineering behind his Software Defined Wi-Fi network has been acknowledged as groundbreaking by industry giants such as Google, Intel, and Vodacom. Notably, the ability for subscribers to access a single account with automatic login at any hotspot, regardless of location, was a pioneering achievement in Nigeria back in 2012, unmatched by any other ISP to date.

In 2014, Ayowándé was honored as ICT Wizkid of the Year at the Nigeria Telecom Awards, while Oxygen Broadband received the award for "Best Wi-Fi Provisioning of the Year" at the same event.

Currently, Ayowándé is leading his second startup, Wave 5 Wireless, which is redefining the creation, distribution, and monetization of services and utilities over a pervasive Wi-Fi network. The flagship product, Atmosphere®, reimagines high-speed broadband as the new standard. Built on the latest Wi-Fi 6 technology, Atmosphere® is a robust Infrastructure-as-a-Service (IaaS) solution that delivers 2Gbps pipelines for distributing various utilities and services to the Nigerian public.

Atmosphere serves as a value aggregator for diverse consumer segments, delivered over an almost ubiquitous Wi-Fi network. It is also a technology powering Wi-Fi offload, currently undergoing testing with major Mobile Network Operators (MNOs). This innovative solution, conceived by Ayowándé and his team at Wave 5 Wireless, aims to address congestion and Quality of Service (QoS) challenges within the industry while simultaneously creating new opportunities for consumers and transforming the telecommunications landscape.





Mr. Azeez Amida

CEO, Pan African Towers Limited (PAT)

Azeez Amida is a distinguished business executive with over 18 years of professional experience spanning six countries and more than 12 industries, including telecommunications, investment banking, private equity, and financial advisory. Fondly called the Growthpreneur, Amida is renowned for his expertise in business transformation and growth strategies, with a proven track record of delivering measurable results in emerging markets.

Until December 2024, Amida served as the CEO of Pan African Towers (PAT), the largest indigenous tower company in Nigeria, with a portfolio exceeding 750 towers. Under his leadership, PAT achieved a remarkable turnaround, transitioning from near-bankruptcy to profitability. His strategic vision enabled the company to secure \$40 million in funding at an 8x return on investment, re-engineer customer contracts for optimal terms, and strengthen client relationships—all while maintaining cost efficiency amidst significant currency volatility.

His tenure at PAT cemented the company's position as a critical player in Nigeria's telecommunications infrastructure landscape. Before PAT, Amida held pivotal roles at IHS Towers, including serving as CEO of IHS Rwanda, where he was instrumental in restructuring the organization and leading it to become the fastest-growing entity in the group's history. His leadership resulted in a 4x revenue increase, 3.5x EBITDA growth, and a shift from a 3.5% CAGR to a sustained 27% growth run rate over three years. As the youngest CEO in IHS's history, Amida spearheaded critical negotiations, including unlocking \$220 million in frozen financial assets and securing an \$8 million fiber infrastructure license in Rwanda.

Amida's early career laid the foundation for his success, with roles ranging from portfolio management at Meristem Securities to financial advisory at Kaizen Venture Partners and leadership positions at Hygeia Nigeria, and Affinity Storm Press Press Online in Michigan. He has been integral to high-stakes transactions, including the \$1 billion acquisition of Oando by Elektron Oil and managing \$5 billion in equity, debt, and structured financing for telecommunications infrastructure.

An MBA alumnus of IE Business School, Spain, and a graduate of Olabisi Onabanjo University with a degree in Economics, Amida is also a Chartered Management Accountant. In 2022, he was awarded an honorary Doctor of Philosophy by California Metropolitan University, recognizing his expertise and exceptional leadership in business transformation and innovation.

Amida has earned significant accolades for his impact and leadership. He is a 2023 honoree of the 40 Under 40 Most Influential People of African Descent (MIPAD) list and was a nominee for the 2023 Forbes Best of Africa Award.

His exceptional contributions have also been recognized with awards like the Most Influential People of African Descent (2023) and The Peak Performer's Exceptional Executive Leadership Award (2024). Amida is the author of the best-selling book *Enter, Perform, Exit: Understanding the Opportunity Lifecycle (EPE Principle)* and the founder of several impactful initiatives. Through the Azeez Amida Foundation, he works to implement critical areas of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in underserved communities across Nigeria, focusing on education, health, and access to clean water. His other initiatives, including Showtime Flag and Taego Limited, reflect his commitment to empowering communities and fostering innovation.





Mr. Chidi Ibisi

**Executive Director, Business Development of
Broadbased Communications Ltd (BBC)**

Mr. Chidi Ibisi is the Executive Director, Business Development of Broadbased Communications Ltd (BBC), licensed by the Nigerian Communications Commission as an International Data Access Operator, Private Network Links Operator, VAS Aggregator, Internet Service Provider and Open Access Metropolitan Fiber Optic Network Operator. BBC operates a Fiber Network in Lagos with Fiber links into all the major Telecom Operators, Submarine Cable Landing Stations, Data Centers, Nigerian Internet Exchange Point, all the Banks, the Nigeria Stock Exchange, Electronic Payment Switching and Processing Companies, Oil Companies and Major Corporate Firms in Lagos.

Mr. Ibisi started his Career in Telecommunications in 1986 with MCI Telecom Corp in the USA. His broad range of experience covers Digital Switching Systems, Mobile Radio Networks, Fixed Wireless Access Networks, VSAT Networks, Fiber Optic Networks, Local Exchange, Long Distance and International Network Services.

He brings to BBC 38 years' experience in the Telecom industry and has been instrumental for the expansion of BBC's customer base in the Telecom Operator, Banking, Financial Services sectors, with Federal and State Governments including Strategic Alliances for BBC's nationwide expansion projects. Mr Ibisi has developed BBC's Strategic Alliances with Major Telecom Equipment Manufacturers and Global Telecom Operators. He leads the Team responsible for the specification, design, development, deployment, testing, operations and maintenance of BBC's Softswitches, Billing Systems, Online Payment platforms, Business Support and Operational Support Systems. Trained in the U.K. and U.S.A, in Marketing and Telecommunications he worked in the U.S.A in various Marketing positions for U.S. based Telecom Operators including: MCI Telecom Corp, ISI Telecom, as Manager International Relations, Africa for

Startec Global Communications Corp, U.S.A, a Telecom Operator and as Vice President Marketing for Warsun International Communications Corp, U.S.A, a Start Up Telecom Operator with a focus on Africa.

As pioneer Vice President of Marketing for Warsun International Communications Corp, Mr. Ibisi was responsible for securing Agreements for International Telecom Services in over 22 African countries and handled all aspects of the Start up of Warsun's subsidiary in Nigeria. As Vice President Sales, Africa Region for Eagle Telephonics Inc, a U.S.A Telecom Switching Equipment, Prepaid Billing, Interconnect Billing and Customer Care Platform Manufacturer, he secured Network Equipment Purchase Agreements with several Fixed Line and Wireless Telecom Operators in Nigeria.

Mr Ibisi has provided Business Development Consulting Services in Africa for several International Companies in the following areas: Digital Switching Systems, Mobile Radio Networks including Military Networks, Fixed Wireless Access Networks, VSAT Networks, Fiber Optic Networks, Mobile Networks, Local Exchange, Long Distance and International Network Services, Instrument Landing Systems and Radar Systems. Mr. Ibisi has Consulted for many firms in Nigeria including a Final bidder in 2010 for the acquisition of Nitel Plc bringing to the bidding Consortium a Global Telecom Operator, Global Network Equipment Partners and Financial Partners including bringing Technical and Financial Partners for shortlisted and successful bidders for PHCN successor companies.

He has also Consulted for a Bidder for the acquisition of a Mobile Network Operator in Nigeria including several Start Up Nigerian based Telecom Operators in the following areas: Development of Business Plans, Licensing, Network Design, Network Planning, Project Financing/Equity Financing, Network Operations, Start up Marketing, Recruiting, Training and Network Launch. Mr. Ibisi is married with children, he enjoys reading and soccer.





Chijioke E. Ezech

Chief Executive Officer, Phoenix Core Ltd

Chijioke E. Ezech, a seasoned expert in telecoms and the digital economy, began his journey in 2001 when seconded to MTech Communications Plc from SmartPay Nigeria Ltd. His career took a pivotal turn in 2005 at MTech, where he spearheaded the adoption of ringtones and delved into the technical processes behind analogue ringtone creation.

In 2006, Ezech led groundbreaking projects that defined Nigeria's telecoms landscape. He harmonized the first Numbering Plan for Value-Added Services (VAS), addressing inconsistencies in short-code issuance across networks.

This harmonization brought balance to the sector and was a foundational framework until recent updates by the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC). That same year, he developed Central Station—Nigeria's first telco-driven social media platform—for Celtel, which Zain later adopted. This innovation paved the way for similar platforms across Africa.

Ezech's influence extends beyond Nigeria. As MTech's Country/Project Manager in Benin Republic in 2006, he initiated projects across West, Central, East, and Southern Africa. A notable achievement was a 2010 project in Guinea, equipping the country's security forces with Closed User Group (CUG) phones, a system that played a crucial role in averting a coup.

In 2015, Ezech became National Coordinator of the Wireless Applications Service Providers of Nigeria (WASPAN), one of the nation's largest industry associations. He has contributed to policy frameworks, license guidelines, and regulatory initiatives, including chairing the committee that developed the VAS Code

of Conduct, which remains a core regulatory document today.

Ezech envisions a future where VAS transcends traditional telecom offerings to deliver tomorrow's digital solutions. His team has evolved into full-stack developers, building platforms and applications for advertising, entertainment, gaming, recruitment, and non-banking financial services. These innovations aim to cater to diverse demographics while future-proofing Nigeria's digital economy.

A firm believer in giving back, Ezech supports educational initiatives, such as mentoring and equipping students at schools in Lagos and training university students to balance work and study. Rooted in his Igbo heritage, he embraces the philosophy of "leave no one behind," making silent donations for education and development in Enugu State. His Catholic faith also drives contributions to human development efforts in Lagos, Nasarawa, and Niger States.

The telecoms industry faces opacity, particularly in investment opportunities. Limited visibility into the sector's potential discourages investors. Ezech advocates for a comprehensive analysis and publication of opportunities within license categories, led by the NCC and reputable firms. Regular updates to this document could attract local and international investors, unlocking the sector's full potential.

Chijioke E. Ezech is currently the Chief Executive Officer of Phoenix Core Ltd., and was a recipient of Nigeria @60 ICT Hall of Fame Awards in October 2020.



Chinwe Okoli

**Special Adviser to the Governor of Anambra State,
Nigeria on Innovation and Business Incubation**

Dr. Chinwe Okoli, Special Adviser to the Governor of Anambra State on Innovation and Business Incubation, is a key figure in Nigeria's digital innovation space. With expertise in economics, public policy, and business incubation, she has been instrumental in bridging public policy and entrepreneurship, fostering innovation ecosystems, and driving digital transformation initiatives. Her career is marked by pioneering efforts in innovation hubs and business incubation. As the manager of Nigeria's first university-embedded innovation hub at the University of Nigeria, Nsukka, she developed a structured business curriculum that transformed students into successful entrepreneurs. She later led the establishment of the Lion Science Park, Nigeria's first science park, which accelerates research commercialization and supports tech-driven businesses. Now heading the Solution Innovation District (SID) in Anambra, Dr. Okoli spearheads the 1 Million Anambra Digital Tribe Project, which aims to equip one million residents with digital skills, combat digital illiteracy, and boost employment. Under her leadership, over 25,000 individuals have already benefitted from SID's digital training programs.

Future Plans for Innovation and Creativity

Dr. Okoli envisions a tech-driven Anambra through: Expanded Digital Skill Training: Integrating AI, blockchain, and emerging technologies into digital education. Innovation Clusters: Establishing sector-specific hubs for agriculture, fintech, and manufacturing. Startup Incubation: Partnering with global accelerators and venture capitalists to support startups. Research Commercialization: Strengthening academia-industry collaborations for product innovation.

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Initiatives

SID's game-changing CSR initiatives: Digital Inclusion – Free training for students, traders, and artisans. Tech for Women – Equipping female entrepreneurs with digital tools. STEM for Schools – Coding, robotics, and AI for young minds. Startup Support – Grants, mentorship, and networking for innovators. Community Wi-Fi – Free internet access in underserved areas.

Corporate Profile

Solution Innovation District (SID) is Anambra's leading tech and entrepreneurship hub, fueling innovation, empowering startups, and driving digital transformation. We equip talents with cutting-edge skills, incubate bold ideas, and connect industries to build a thriving digital economy.

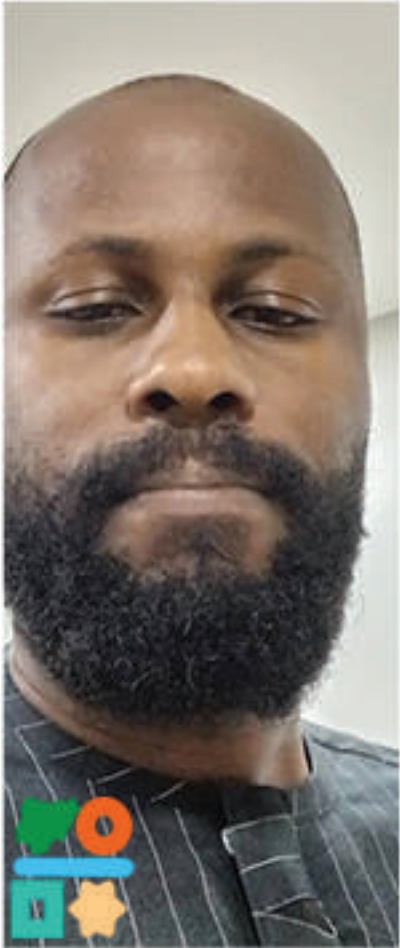
Challenges & Future Directions

Despite progress, Nigeria faces key innovation challenges: Limited Startup Funding: Young innovators struggle to access venture capital. Infrastructure Deficiencies: Poor internet connectivity and unreliable electricity hinder growth. Regulatory Barriers: Inconsistent policies stifle startup expansion and foreign investment. Digital Skill Gaps: A shortage of high-tech skills limits competitiveness.

Proposed Solutions

Startup Investment Fund: Supporting early-stage ventures. Improved Digital Infrastructure: Expanding broadband penetration and stable electricity. Regulatory Reforms: Creating a business-friendly environment for innovation. Tech Education Integration: Embedding digital skills in school curricula. Dr. Okoli remains committed to shaping a more innovative Nigeria. Integrate Tech Education into school curricula to build a future-ready workforce. Dr. Okoli remains at the forefront of these efforts, driving policies and programs that will shape a more innovative and digitally empowered Nigeria.





Engr. Chukwu-elozonem Samson O.

Telecom Networking and Management, Ericsson Nigeria (NOC) 2009

Engr. Chukwu-elozonem Samson O. is a highly skilled and accomplished multilevel communicator with a track record of driving digital transformation and innovation. With expertise spanning Wireless Communication, LTE, OFDMA, WCDMA, GSM, and cybersecurity, he has been at the forefront of engineering and telecommunications advancements. His leadership experience at Ericsson Nigeria and other key industry roles has positioned him as a pioneer in network strategy, cloud infrastructure, cybersecurity, and digital transformation. As a Cisco Certified Engineer with specialized training from Ericsson, NIIT, and Regenesys Business School, Engr. Chukwu-elozonem has consistently delivered high-impact technological solutions. His expertise in network planning, engineering, and project management has helped organizations streamline operations, reduce costs, and optimize efficiency.

Innovation and Future Plans

Engr. Chukwu-elozonem's organization is set to redefine the future of telecommunications and digital infrastructure by focusing on: 5G Expansion & Edge Computing – Developing next-generation network solutions for enhanced connectivity. AI and Cybersecurity Integration – Strengthening digital defenses through intelligent threat detection systems. Sustainable Tech Solutions – Implementing eco-friendly innovations to reduce the environmental impact of ICT operations. Smart Cities Development – Driving IoT-based infrastructure projects for urban transformation. His organization is committed to fostering digital inclusion, empowering businesses, and revolutionizing connectivity in Nigeria and beyond.

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Initiatives

Under his leadership, the organization has successfully executed several CSR initiatives, including: STEM Education Support – Sponsoring scholarships for students in ICT and engineering. Digital Literacy Programs – Providing free training to young professionals in data communication and cybersecurity. Rural Connectivity Projects – Deploying internet infrastructure in underserved communities. Sustainable Energy for Telecom – Implementing solar-powered base stations to reduce carbon footprints. These initiatives reflect Engr. Chukwu-elozonem's commitment to social impact, youth empowerment, and bridging the digital divide.

Corporate Profile

Renowned for excellence in telecom and digital security, we deliver cutting-edge network solutions, driving connectivity, efficiency, and AI-powered innovation.

Corporate Advertisement

"Revolutionizing Digital Connectivity – Secure, Smart, and Sustainable. At [Company Name], we build the future of digital infrastructure through cutting-edge 5G, cloud solutions, and AI-driven cybersecurity. Partner with us to stay ahead in a hyper-connected world. Let's innovate together!"

Challenges & Future Directions

Despite the rapid evolution of technology, several obstacles continue to hinder creativity and innovation, including: High Infrastructure Costs – The financial burden of deploying advanced networks limits expansion. Cybersecurity Threats – Rising cyberattacks pose challenges to data security and innovation. Regulatory Barriers – Complex policies can slow down the adoption of emerging technologies. Talent Shortage – The demand for skilled professionals in AI, cloud computing, and cybersecurity outpaces supply. To overcome these challenges, Engr. Chukwu-elozonem advocates for government-private sector collaborations, increased investment in R&D, and policies that foster innovation. By addressing these, the industry can unlock new opportunities and drive economic growth.



Dr. Dapo Akanbi

Managing Director/CEO of Telepro Consulting Services Limited

Dr. Dapo Akanbi, the Managing Director/CEO of Telepro Consulting Services Limited and Kale & Nibs Limited, has been a key player in shaping digital transformation in Nigeria and beyond. With over 18 years of experience in Telecommunications and IT, Dr. Akanbi has successfully led groundbreaking projects across multiple countries, bringing cutting-edge solutions to the industry. His expertise in Radio Network Planning, Optimization, and Technical Project Management has positioned him as an industry leader in innovation. His leadership is defined by a progressive mindset, a commitment to adopting emerging technologies, and a passion for driving efficiency in the ICT sector.

Future Plans for Innovation and Creativity

Under Dr. Akanbi's leadership, his organizations are committed to accelerating digital transformation through: AI-driven network optimization to improve telecom services, enhance connectivity, and reduce operational inefficiencies. Expansion of 5G infrastructure in Africa, enabling faster internet speeds, seamless communication, and improved access to digital services. Smart city development projects integrating IoT solutions, fostering automation, intelligent transportation systems, and enhanced urban planning. Strategic partnerships with global tech firms to enhance digital inclusion, drive innovation, and facilitate knowledge exchange for emerging technologies. Capacity-building programs to train young professionals in telecommunications, digital innovation, cybersecurity, and advanced wireless communication, ensuring a skilled workforce for the future.

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Initiatives

Dr. Akanbi's organizations have executed impactful CSR projects, including: Free digital skills training for Nigerian youth. Provision of free Wi-Fi hotspots in underserved communities.

STEM education support for secondary schools. Donation of ICT equipment to higher institutions. Telecom infrastructure support for rural communities.

Corporate Profile

Telepro Consulting Services Limited is a leading provider of telecommunications consulting, digital transformation strategies, and network infrastructure solutions across Africa, the Middle East, and Asia. With a mission to revolutionize connectivity and drive innovation, the company delivers top-tier network optimization, IT consulting, and digital inclusion initiatives. Kale & Nibs Limited, a subsidiary, focuses on technology-driven solutions, AI integration, and capacity building in Nigeria's ICT space.

Corporate Advertisement

"Innovating Today, Transforming Tomorrow" At Telepro Consulting Services, we go beyond connectivity—we create smart solutions for a digital future. From network optimization to AI-driven innovations, we empower businesses and communities with cutting-edge technology. Join us in reshaping the digital landscape.

Challenges to Creativity and Innovation

The ICT sector faces several hurdles, including: Regulatory constraints slowing technological advancements. Infrastructure deficits, limiting the deployment of high-speed internet. High operational costs, driven by energy challenges. Talent shortages, hindering digital innovation.

Future Directions

To foster innovation, public-private partnerships must be strengthened, policies need to be more tech-friendly, and investments in local talent development and infrastructure expansion should be prioritized. Dr. Dapo Akanbi remains committed to bridging these gaps and driving sustainable digital transformation.





Mr. David Daser

President/CEO, Digital Bridge Institute (DBI)

Summary

Mr. David Daser is a transformative leader, software engineer, and technology policymaker with over 13 years of experience driving digital transformation in Africa. He is passionately committed to advancing human capacity development, bridging the digital divide, and empowering the next generation of leaders. His career is defined by groundbreaking initiatives that promote innovation, inclusivity, and sustainable development, particularly in underserved communities.

Educational Background

Primary Education:

- Police Children School, Ilorin (1994–1996)

Secondary Education:

- Baptist High School, Kagu, Pankshin LGA, Plateau State (1999–2002)

Higher Education:

- B.Sc. in Biochemistry and National Diploma in Computer Science, University of Jos (2004–2009)

- Master's in Society and Development Studies**, University of Abuja (2020–2023)

- Currently pursuing Master of Research in Public Policy (M.Res.), University of Jos

- Phd in Public Policy and governance (in view).

Professional Experience and Leadership

1. President/CEO, Digital Bridge Institute (DBI)

Duration: August 2024–Present

As CEO of Nigeria's foremost ICT training institution, Mr. Daser focuses on:

- Human Capacity Development: Expanding DBI's training programs to equip individuals with skills to thrive in a digitally-driven world.

- Digital Inclusion: Strengthening partnerships with international stakeholders to bring technology access and literacy to underserved communities.

- Youth Empowerment: Promoting initiatives that align with global digital transformation trends while addressing local needs.

Major Contributions and Vision

Policy and Governance:

- Member of the Presidential Council on Infrastructure Sub-Group (2018–2020), contributing to Nigeria's national broadband strategy.

- Co-Chair, Plateau State Open Government Partnership, driving transparency and citizen engagement in governance.

- Championed the domestication of the Plateau State Startup Act, creating an enabling environment for innovation and entrepreneurship.

Passion for Human Capacity Development

Mr. Daser's vision is deeply rooted in the belief that people are the greatest assets of any society. His efforts focus on:

- . Capacity Building:

- Because of his passion for technology incubation, he founded Nhub one amongst the first technology incubation hubs in Northern Nigeria. Through this hub he has impacted majorly in the lives of thousands who today irk their living though training, mentorship and job place they got an Nhub

- Through Code Plateau, he equipped thousands of young people with technical and entrepreneurial skills, enabling them to participate meaningfully in the digital economy.

- As CEO of DBI, he has expanded training programs to ensure that more individuals, particularly those in underserved regions, gain access to transformative education and certification.

Commitment to Family and Personal Values

Mr. Daser's commitment to his family is central to his life. He is married and is a proud father of two children, Zumnan and Telbyen. His family inspires his vision for a brighter future, rooted in inclusivity, opportunity, and empowerment.

Legacy and Vision

Mr. Daser envisions an Africa where technology is a tool for empowerment, education, & equality. His work continues to focus on:

- Building sustainable digital ecosystems.

- Bridging the gap between urban and rural communities.

- Preparing the next generation to lead Africa's technological and economic renaissance.





Ejikeme Onyeaso Esq

Executive Director, Adaba Consult Limited

Ejikeme Onyeaso, Esq., is a visionary leader driving innovation in Nigeria's telecommunications and digital economy. As the Executive Director of Adaba Consult Limited, he has spearheaded creative solutions in telecom infrastructure deployment, regulatory engagement, and government relations. His leadership has enabled businesses to navigate Nigeria's complex telecom landscape while fostering innovation and digital transformation.

Leadership in Creativity and Digital Innovation

Ejikeme has led Adaba Consult in pioneering strategic advisory services that enhance operational efficiency and regulatory compliance. His innovative approach has helped businesses adapt to evolving industry regulations and leverage digital transformation opportunities. Under his guidance, the firm has expanded its capabilities, forming strategic alliances with top-tier legal and technology professionals to deliver cutting-edge solutions.

Future Plans for Innovation and Creativity

Adaba Consult is committed to shaping the future of Nigeria's digital landscape. The company plans to invest in emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI), 5G deployment, and smart city infrastructure. It is also working on partnerships to develop digital literacy programs that will empower businesses and individuals to thrive in the digital economy. Through continuous innovation, Adaba Consult aims to drive policy reforms that support technological advancement and sectoral growth.

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Initiatives

Adaba Consult has undertaken several CSR projects to support communities and drive digital inclusion:

ICT Training for Youth: Sponsored digital literacy programs to equip young Nigerians with essential tech skills.

Women in Tech Initiative: Supported female entrepreneurs with training and resources to enhance their digital businesses.

Rural Connectivity Projects: Partnered with stakeholders to expand broadband access in underserved areas.

Legal Aid for SMEs: Provided pro bono regulatory and compliance services to small businesses in the telecom sector.

Corporate Profile & Advertisement

Adaba Consult Limited is a premier advisory firm specializing in telecom infrastructure deployment, regulatory compliance, and digital policy consulting. With a strong focus on innovation, the firm provides strategic guidance to telecom operators, policymakers, and technology companies, helping them navigate regulatory challenges and seize emerging opportunities.

"At Adaba Consult, we turn regulatory complexities into opportunities. Partner with us to unlock the future of telecom innovation in Nigeria."

Challenges to Creativity & Innovation in the Industry

Despite significant progress, several obstacles hinder creativity and innovation in Nigeria's telecom sector. These include regulatory bottlenecks, inconsistent government policies, high operational costs, and inadequate infrastructure. Addressing these challenges requires policy reforms, increased investment in digital infrastructure, and stronger public-private collaborations.

Future Directions

To foster a thriving digital ecosystem, Nigeria must adopt a regulatory framework that encourages innovation, invest in broadband expansion, and support digital skills development. By leveraging strategic partnerships and emerging technologies, industry leaders like Ejikeme Onyeaso continue to shape the future of Nigeria's digital economy.



Emmanuel Amos

Chief Software Architect and CEO, Programos Software Group

Amos Emmanuel is the Chief Software Architect and CEO of Programos Software Group. He is a prolific IT entrepreneur, social innovation developer, software developer, and machine learning engineer.

He has served as the ICT backbone for numerous financial and investment research institutions, including Rims Securities Limited, Gloria Unit Trusts, and Rims Merchant Bank Group in Nigeria in the early '90s when IT was still a scarce commodity. Emmanuel invented Nigeria's pioneering, award-winning capital market software, #CloudIntegra, and #CloudIntegra #Mobile #App, for licensed stock market dealers and Investors of the African Stock Exchanges. His indigenous and Multi-award winning software has served Nigeria and Ghana regions for over two decades.

Mr. Emmanuel who hails from Ekpenyong-Atai, Essien Udim Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom state, is the Founder of Programos Foundation, a not-for-profit, non-governmental organization that fosters a national innovation ecosystem for multi-disciplinary career transformations in computing, Artificial Intelligence and machine Learning. He is the United Nations World Summit Awards Eminent National Expert for Nigeria and a Grand Jury member volunteering to tech-scout mentor that showcases homegrown, purpose-driven, digital innovation with a highly positive impact on improving the Nigerian society for more than 15 years. He is the Chief Data Officer (CDO), Africa IPv6 Cybersecurity Task Force. Amos is a Mentor on the MasterCard Foundation Associate Mentorship Program and a member of the Nigeria Computer Society (NCS), Institute of Software

Practitioners of Nigeria (ISPON), former Vice President, Information Technology Association of Nigeria (ITAN), Fellow of the Institute of Information Management (IIM), and Chief Data Officer Ambassador (CDOA). He is an Alumni of the PG Program in Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning: Business Applications by the University of Texas, Austin, US.

He staunchly believes that being an expert in innovation comes with a profound responsibility to design solutions that address local challenges while meeting global standards. He has lived up to this expectations time and again. While Emmanuel has led his company to deliver various digital services, he has also cultivated a robust culture of giving back to the society. His Programos Foundation has addressed many societal challenges through Innovationbed Africa-AI Mentorship Academy. This CSR project supports global initiatives like the UN ICT4SIDS Smart Digital Enterprise Transformation Initiative (in partnership with NGE Institute and Harrisburg University, USA) and OCCAM's Infopoverty World Conference (IWC) held annually at the UN Headquarters in New York since 2010.

His assessment of the digital landscape shows the need to remove bottlenecks such as infrastructural deficiency, funding challenges, policy barriers and public sector inefficiencies, in other to pave the digital way forward. The way ahead remains ambitious for Emmanuel as he believes in building on his established track record. His desires include expanding the Innovationbed Africa-AI Academy to support 10,000 students annually by 2025, nurturing the next generation of African innovators. This is as he also looks forward to strengthening partnerships with global organizations such as the United Nations World Summit Awards to push more local innovations to the global stage. He is working to develop solutions in cybersecurity and AI ethics to ensure responsible and sustainable digital transformation.



Engr. Gbenga Adebayo

Chairman, Association of Licensed Telecom Operators of Nigeria (ALTON)

Engineer Gbenga Adebayo serves as the Chairman of the Association of Licensed Telecom Operators of Nigeria (ALTON), representing mobile network operators, infrastructure companies, and providers of ancillary services.

Under his leadership, ALTON has driven Nigeria's digital transformation by advocating fair regulatory practices, addressing challenges like multiple taxation, and collaborating with stakeholders to enhance the telecommunications sector. Notably, ALTON facilitated the National Economic Council's approval of a ₦145 per linear meter right-of-way cost, promoting telecom infrastructure development.

In addition to his ALTON role, Adebayo is the Chairman and Group CEO of Communication Network Support Services Limited (CNSSL), a conglomerate spanning telecom infrastructure, media, agriculture, hospitality, and healthcare. He also founded Royal Media Group, which owns several radio stations, including Royal FM in Ilorin, Asaba, Kaduna, and New Bussa, and oversees African Broadband Limited, managing Royal Television and other media outlets.

Adebayo's ventures extend into hospitality and agriculture as the founder of Savannah Hotels and Resort Centre and Chesterfield Farms. He champions vocational training as the Chancellor of Premier Vocational Training Institute and supports healthcare development as the founder of Heilung Kreuz Hospital in Lagos. A respected telecom professional, Adebayo authored Telecom in Nigeria: A Role in the Call, chronicling the industry's evolution.

His expertise has secured him memberships on notable public and private sector committees, including the Nigeria Presidential Committee on Digital Economy Policy (2022), the Presidential Task Force on SIM/NIN Integration (2021), and the Governing Board of the Digital Bridge Institute (2016–2020). He has contributed to industry bodies such as the Telecom Industry Advisory Forum and the National Communications Policy Review Committee.

Adebayo's professional affiliations are extensive, including memberships in the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers, the British Radio Science Association, the German Society of Radio Engineers, and the Nigeria Institute of Management. He is also a patron of student engineering societies at Obafemi Awolowo University and Lagos State University. As a past president of the Rotary Club of Victoria Garden City, District 9110 Nigeria, he exemplifies service to community and industry alike.

He was listed as one of 44 Nigerian professionals in a media survey conducted about successful and eminent young Nigerian Chief Executives in a report on the 'Roadmap to the future: Those who will make Nigeria Great again' during Nigeria's 44th Independence anniversary, in October 2004.

Publications like Nigeria IT and Telecom Digest Magazine, Newswatch Magazine, City People Magazine and The Guardian have celebrated his achievements, describing him as a "Telecom Wizard" and one of "Most Young Inspiring 50 Nigerian Entrepreneurs" in 2017.

His influence extends internationally, with recognition from organizations such as the International Biographical Centre and membership in global engineering societies.

ALTON
Association of Licensed Telecom Operators of Nigeria



Gbolahan Awonuga

Executive Secretary, Association of Licensed Telecom Operators of Nigeria (ALTON)

Mr. Gbolahan Adeyemi Awonuga is a seasoned administrator with over 25 years of experience in secretariat administration, business organization, and customer service management.

He holds a Higher National Diploma (HND) in Secretarial Administration from Yaba College of Technology (1995), a Postgraduate Diploma (PGD) in Management Science from Lagos State University (2006), and a Postgraduate Diploma in Theology.

Additionally, he earned an Executive Master Class Certificate in Corporate Sustainability (EMCCS) and is a chartered member of the Computer Professionals of Nigeria (CPN).

Awonuga is a Fellow of the Professional Leadership Practitioners Institute (FPLPI) and an associate member of the Nigerian Institute of Management. He is certified in customer service by the Rockhurst University Continuing Education Centre, Inc., and the International Customer Service Association.

His professional development includes workshops on topics such as "Secrets of Change Management" (2009) and "Emotional Intelligence" (2010). He has also obtained certificates from the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) in areas like Blockchain Technology, 5G Technology, and the Social Internet of Things.

Awonuga who joined the telecommunications sector in 2003 as a Special Assistant to the Executive Secretary, currently serves as the Executive Secretary of the Association of Licensed Telecommunications Operators of Nigeria (ALTON).

He has over the years, represented the telecom industry in several key working groups and committees, including: The NCC's Industry Consumer Advisory Forum (ICAF), The NCC Industry Working Group (IWG) on Multiple Taxation and Levies, The National Advisory Committee on E-Commerce and Digital Economy, The NCC's IWG on Short Codes, and the Technical and Implementation Committees for the Federal Ministry of Communications Roadmap (2017–2019).

Awonuga also serves as the Acting President of the Information, Communication and Telecommunication Local Content Association (ICTLOCA).

In addition to his professional contributions, Awonuga is recognized for his expertise in fostering industry collaboration and shaping telecom policies. His leadership has made significant impacts on the telecommunications landscape in Nigeria and beyond.

As the Executive Secretary of ALTON, Awonuga has in conjunction with the Chairman, ensured that the association worked closely with regulators, the Federal Ministry of Communications, Innovation and Digital Economy, and other industry players to drive initiatives that modernize and expand the telecommunications landscape. Under him as Executive Secretary, ALTON has achieved several milestones that have had a lasting impact on the telecom industry including among other things, the approval by the National Economic Council (NEC) of the Federal Right of Way charge of ₦145 per linear meter, a policy that simplifies and reduces the cost of deploying telecommunications infrastructure, making it more accessible across the country.

Awonuga is married and a proud father, balancing a distinguished career with a commitment to family and community.





Oluseyi Olanrewaju

Group Chief Value Officer of XeroCube and Professor Accounting & Finance at James Hope University, Lekki, Lagos.

Seyi is the Group Chief Value Officer of XeroCube and Professor Accounting and Finance at James Hope University, Lekki, Lagos. He is a Member of the Governing Council of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria (ICAN) and currently serving as the Honorary Treasurer of the Institute. Previously, the Acting Managing Director and Chief Financial Officer/Board Member of Vodacom Business Africa Nigeria respectively. He is a three-time recipient of the CFO of the year award in Nigeria's Telecommunication Industry – 2016, 2018 & 2019. Also, a recipient of Africa Influencer Award 2020, Notable ICAN Person 2020, Award for Service to Humanity 2021 by Rotary Club, Recognised as Top 50 CFOs in Nigeria 2024 and recognized as one of the 100 leading personalities in the telecommunications and digital economy sectors in Nigeria 2024. He has held various roles in Multi-national Organisations including Exxon Mobil Nigeria (Now Seplat Petroleum Development Company), PwC, Zenith Bank Plc, MTN Nigeria, General Electric, Internet Solutions (Now Dimension Data), Konga Online Shopping Mall, Mixta Africa (A subsidiary of ARM), Transport Services Limited (TSL) SecureID Group, and Digital Reality.

He is a seasoned Finance/IFRS/IPSAS expert and respected analyst on Corporate Governance and Corporate/Sustainability/Financial Reporting matters, with over 20 years practical experience spanning virtually all sectors of business endeavour; Auditing, Banking, Telecommunication, Power, Health, Oil and Gas, Academics, Internet Service Provider, E-Commerce Business, Real Estate, Transportation, Smartcard Manufacturing and Data Centre Services. He sits on the Board of many companies as Non-Executive Director (NED) and Independent Non-Executive Director (INED). He has authored two books on Corporate Reporting. He has attended numerous training locally and abroad on leadership, emotional intelligence, communication, formulation and execution of strategies, critical thinking, decision making in the VUCA world and so on.

Seyi is an astute, diligent, value-driven and award-winning Finance Professional, with over 20 years' progressive experience from global multi-billion-dollar companies and a proven track record of success (massive increase to shareholders value) leading all phases of diverse financial operations/services. His financial acumen spans key areas including business partnering, process automation and digital solutions, general administration, M&A, payables, revenue reporting, receivables, general ledger administration, tax management, audit, treasury operations & management, social investment analysis, process risk management, internal control, compliance, audit and investigation, asset management and reporting, inventory management, financial operations & reporting, stakeholders & investors' relationship management and customer service. He is a Co-founder, Chairman and Senior lecturer at Risk Free Standard Associates – an ICAN accredited tuition provider. He is also a Professor of Accounting and Finance at the James Hope University. Faculty member at Babcock University Business School and Rome Business School. Former Chairman – CIMA UK, Branch Committee, Nigeria and member of the Association (CIMA, UK) - Africa Regional Engagement Group (REG). Servicing as Patron, Mentor and Advisor to many associations and groups (Students and Professionals). He is a graduate of Yaba College of Technology and obtained a BSc in Applied Accounting from Oxford Brookes University, United Kingdom, MBA from Lagos State University, MSc Finance from University of Leicester, United Kingdom and Charisma University, TCI, United Kingdom.

He is a fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria (ICAN), Chartered Institute of Taxation of Nigeria (CITN), Association of Certified Chartered Accountants (ACCA, UK), Chartered Institute of Management (CIMA, UK), Association of International Certified Professional Accountants (AICPA), Chartered Institute of Directors of Nigeria (CIoD), Nigeria Institute of Management – Chartered (NIM), Society for Corporate Governance of Nigeria (SCGN) and Association of Forensic Accounting Researchers (AFAR).. He currently serving in different committees and a regular paper presenter at seminars, webinars and conferences etc, of these professional bodies. He is happily married and blessed with wonderful children. Also, a member of Ikoyi Club 1938, Lagos Country Club, Rotary Club of Ogudu GRA and Lagos State Public Service Club.



**JAMES HOPE
UNIVERSITY**



Ifeanyi Akosionu

Managing Director, inq. Nigeria

Ifeanyi Akosionu is a transformational leader driving growth and innovation in Africa's leading enterprise connectivity business, inq. Nigeria. With operations in over 25 African countries, the company provides cutting-edge solutions in intelligent connectivity, cloud computing, digital solutions, and Edge technologies.

Akosionu has exuded a trail of academic excellence with a Master of Business Administration from the Manchester Business School, UK; and a Bachelor of Engineering in Electronic Engineering and Computing from University of Nigeria, Nsukka where he graduated top 7%. He is a member of many professional bodies including the Computer Science Advisory, 2020 Telecom Reform Group, DMZ Accelerator Bootcamp and Digital Council Africa.

As the Managing Director of inq. Nigeria, Akosionu has led groundbreaking initiatives, including the first hyperscale cloud implementation in Nigeria, securing a substantial \$50 million contract. Under his leadership, the company has achieved a 30% increase in top-line revenue and a 70% reduction in currency risk exposure, highlighting his commitment to delivering measurable business outcomes.

Beyond these successes, he has cultivated a culture of innovation and creativity within the organization. By fostering collaboration and empowering teams to launch cutting-edge solutions in SDWAN, AI-powered Edge systems, and IoT, solidifying the company's position as a leading technology solutions provider in Africa.

Under his leadership, inq. Nigeria is poised to lead the charge in shaping the future of technology in Africa. The company's future plans include driving digital transformation through Edge technologies, enhancing AI within Edge systems, expanding its footprint across Africa, fostering innovation and talent, and driving sustainable growth.

Akosionu emphasizes the importance of overcoming obstacles such as currency volatility, infrastructure deficiencies, talent scarcity, and regulatory complexities. To address these challenges, inq. Nigeria is focused on diversifying revenue streams, investing in infrastructure, building a strong talent pipeline, and engaging policymakers.

Akosionu sets the pace for his team as an exemplary leader showcasing competencies such as strong telco background, SaaS/PaaS/infrastructure, management consulting and advisory, strategy & leadership, product development and GTM, business development & sales, stakeholder/ecosystems management, digital technology & innovation, strategic partnerships management, program management, complex contracting & negotiations, fixed & wireless networks, and public relations skills, among others.

Through its commitment to innovation, sustainability, and social impact, inq. Nigeria aims to create a brighter future for its clients, employees, and the communities it serves. The company's flagship CSR initiative, the "Girls in ICT" program, empowers young women to pursue careers in technology, bridging the gender gap in the ICT sector and according to Akosionu, the work is just getting started.





Dr. Joy Smart Francis

Executive Director of Unicloud Africa

Dr. Joy Smart Francis is a transformative leader in technology, with over two decades of experience driving digital innovation and fostering impactful change across Africa. As a passionate advocate for cloud solutions and digital transformation, she is committed to leveraging technology to empower businesses, communities, and the continent at large.

Currently driving business development and strategy for Unicloud Africa as the **Executive Director of Unicloud Africa**, Dr. Joy leads one of the continent's foremost Pan-African cloud solutions providers. Under her guidance, Unicloud Africa has established itself as a key player in driving digital adoption and innovation, providing scalable, secure, and efficient cloud services tailored to meet the unique needs of African enterprises. Her leadership ensures that businesses across the continent have access to cutting-edge technology, enabling them to thrive in an increasingly digital world.

Beyond Unicloud Africa, Dr. Joy plays a pivotal role in advancing technology ecosystems through her involvement in various organizations:

- **Director, Entrepreneurship Village** – Spearheading Africa's "Silicon Valley," a hub for innovation, education, and technology designed to foster creativity and business growth.
- **Board Member, Global Entrepreneurship Festival** – Promoting global collaboration and innovation through technology-driven initiatives.
- **Steering Committee Member, CAPSI MasterCard Project** – Driving the integration of technology in social impact projects to enhance education and innovation.

Dr. Joy's expertise lies in creating and executing strategies that align technology with business objectives, ensuring sustainable growth and measurable impact. Her visionary approach has positioned her as a trailblazer in cloud computing, digital ecosystems, and the future of work in Africa.

Key Achievements:

- Driving cloud adoption across Africa through Unicloud Africa's innovative solutions.
- Establishing technology-focused hubs that inspire creativity and collaboration.
- Building global partnerships to bridge the gap between African enterprises and cutting-edge technological advancements.

Core Skills: Strategic Digital Transformation | Cloud Solutions | Technology Ecosystems | Innovation Leadership | Stakeholder Collaboration | Digital Infrastructure Development

Dr. Joy Smart Francis embodies the spirit of African innovation, constantly pushing boundaries to create technology-driven solutions that empower businesses and communities alike. Through her work, she continues to redefine what is possible in Africa's digital landscape.

Unicloud Africa (UCA) is playing a transformative role in the Nigerian and broader African technology landscape. As a leading Pan-African cloud solutions provider, UCA focuses on delivering scalable, secure, and tailored cloud services to meet the diverse needs of African enterprises. By driving digital adoption and fostering innovation, UCA is empowering businesses across the continent to thrive in a rapidly evolving digital world. Under the strategic leadership of Dr. Joy Smart Francis, UCA is not only revolutionizing cloud computing but also contributing to Africa's technological renaissance through impactful solutions and ecosystem development.





Kingsley Uwazie

Chief Technology and Information Officer (CTIO)

In an industry that thrives on positive disruption and innovation, Kingsley Uwazie has carved a singular path as a master architect of telecommunications transformation. With nearly two decades of experience, Uwazie has built a reputation for blending technical wizardry with strategic brilliance, delivering solutions that don't just connect networks but elevate nations. In an industry with many luminaries, Uwazie is a notable figure. However, his journey into the telecoms stage began humbly, with a natural curiosity for emerging technologies and a penchant for solving complex problems. Over the years, this curiosity has evolved into a finely tuned ability to anticipate industry shifts and position organizations for success in fiercely competitive markets. From his early work deploying CDMA and WiMAX to leading the first standalone 5G network in West Africa, Uwazie has consistently been ahead of the curve, setting benchmarks others can only aspire to reach.

But technical expertise alone doesn't tell the full story of Uwazie's career. At Huawei, his leadership became synonymous with transformative projects, including expanding rural telephony and integrating advanced LTE solutions for major telecom players like MTN, Airtel, and 9mobile. He didn't just lead projects, he engineered them to near perfection, ensuring each initiative wasn't merely a technological upgrade but a step toward bridging the digital divide that plagues much of the world. Uwazie's time at Mafab Communications is the stuff of legend. Tasked with positioning the company as a 5G trailblazer in an intensely competitive market, he led the strategy that secured a \$273 million license for 5G on the 3.5GHz spectrum—a coup in any industry. As Chief Technical Consultant, he turned a 10-week pilot into a launchpad for one of Nigeria's most ambitious 5G rollouts. Presently, as Deputy CTO, he leads the deployment of an ambitious nationwide 5G Rollout poised to shake the industry. These milestones weren't just technical triumphs, they were case studies in how vision and execution can coexist seamlessly.

Uwazie's influence extends far beyond Nigeria. His work spans continents, from proffering advanced optimization features for LTE networks in Romania and designing solution frameworks in Mongolia to fostering talent in Namibia and deploying networks in Zambia. Across these projects, his ability to adapt to regulatory nuances and cultural contexts has been a hallmark, earning him respect as a truly global leader in telecommunications.

Yet, what sets Uwazie apart isn't just his technical acumen or his strategic mind—it's his philosophy. He doesn't see technology as an end in itself but as a means to foster human connection and drive societal progress. Whether integrating Pico cell solutions for rural communities or championing 5G broadcasting capabilities, Uwazie's work carries a deeper purpose to ensure no one is left behind in the digital revolution. There are many who say that if you're not optimizing, then you're wasting bandwidth. Kingsley Uwazie takes that to heart, constantly learning and adapting with certifications that range from HCIP-5G RAN to HCIA-GSM RNP & RNO. He rounds out his skill set with General Health and Safety Environment certifications, proving that while he's perfecting networks, he's also protecting the environments they serve.

As the industry hurtles into the 4.0 era, Uwazie epitomizes the evolution of the Chief Technology Officer into the Chief Technology and Information Officer (CTIO)—a role demanding equal parts technologist, strategist, and visionary. Armed with expertise in cybersecurity, advanced analytics, and digital transformation, he stands ready to guide organizations through the labyrinth of connectivity's future. Kingsley Uwazie isn't just building networks, he's building bridges that empower the underserved and transform industries. He proves that technology, at its best, is a force for collective progress.



Lars Johannisson

Chief Executive Officer, RackCenter

Mr. Lars Johannisson, an accomplished leader with extensive experience in transformative industries, assumed the CEO role in January 2024.

Lars has extensive experience working in Telecom, IT Delivery, Managed Services, and Digital skilling. He is passionate about leading organizations in transformative industries in Africa over the last 14 years and has executed large B2B projects in more than 30 Sub-Saharan countries.

He holds an MBA in General Management/Finance from the Stockholm School of Economics and has completed the Stanford University Executive Program on "Design, Innovation and Business Transformation."

He has actively participated in "Digital and Economic Inclusion" discussions in Sub-Saharan Africa and has sponsored economic inclusion initiatives for hiring and training youth in IT through partnerships with major CSV partners.

Before joining Rack Centre, Johannisson was the CEO of Teleperformance in Sub-Saharan Africa, heading the world's leading company in digital CX and BPO in the group's emerging market and previously at Ericsson, SolarNow and the YNV Group.





Lekan Balogun

MD /CEO, Netaccess Systems Limited

Lekan Balogun is the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Netaccess Systems, a prominent Internet Service Provider (ISP) licensed by the Nigerian Communications Commission. With a national license, Netaccess offers high-quality internet services, catering to a broad range of customers, from SMEs to large enterprises. Our mission is to facilitate businesses, streamline processes, and enable productivity by ensuring reliable connectivity. Lekan Balogun is a result Oriented and excellent in driving sales and strategic business expansion in start-up and multi-nationals organizations. He has a solid business acumen based on a sound technical knowledge spanning over 30 years of experience in managing sales, operations, technology, personnel, and engaging at subsidiary, regional, and corporate levels.

Balogun's journey into the tech world began with a solid academic foundation in computer science and telecommunications. He earned a degree in computer engineering from a prestigious Obafemi Awolowo university, Lie Ife, Nigeria, followed by advanced certifications in networking and digital technologies from various OEMs. His academic background, combined with his passion for technology, laid the groundwork for a career focused on pushing the boundaries of innovation.

Before joining Netaccess, Balogun held key positions in several multinationals like Microsoft Corporations, SAP AG, where he gained invaluable experience in technology operations, technology solutions, sales management, Enterprise Resource Planning and operational efficiency. His deep understanding of the technical aspects of the industry, paired with his strong leadership capabilities, helped him rise through the ranks. Over the years, he led several high-profile projects aimed at modernizing digital infrastructure and enhancing user access to critical services, setting the stage for his leadership role at Netaccess.

As CEO, Balogun's focus is on strategy, expansion, and building a cohesive team capable of delivering top-notch services. He leads a diverse team of professionals, working across multiple locations and disciplines, to ensure that all operations run smoothly. Balogun's leadership is instrumental in maintaining the organization's commitment to delivering not only excellent connectivity but also value-added services that enhance efficiency for customers.

Under his leadership, Netaccess goes beyond traditional internet services by empowering SMEs and automating processes to boost productivity. By collaborating with industry stakeholders, the company develops solutions tailored to the specific needs of different sectors. These efforts enable businesses to operate more efficiently and expand their reach, especially as connectivity allows more people to access vital services. Additionally, Netaccess has made strides in the education sector, providing platforms that connect students, parents, and educators through education management systems, fostering a more collaborative learning environment.

Balogun is deeply committed to service beyond profitability. While the company serves major locations in Lagos with premium internet services, it also plans to extend its reach to other major cities in Nigeria. He spearheaded initiatives that provide free internet to orphanages and works with NGOs to empower disadvantaged children by giving them access to online resources. Balogun describes this mission as "connecting the unconnected," emphasizing the company's dedication to bridging the digital divide.

Through his leadership, Lekan Balogun is not only steering Netaccess toward continued growth but also making a significant impact in underserved communities, ensuring that connectivity benefits all Nigerians, regardless of their location or economic status.





Lukman Suleiman Kura

Chief Commercial Officer, TSAT

Lukman Suleiman Kura is objectively rooted in leadership, executive analysis, and strategic decision planning with expertise in business partner relationship management, project management, retail expansion, and market development.

Kura has a strong professional history in telecommunications and fintech industries. A graduate of Geography from Bayero University Kano (BUK) and holder of a Master's in Economic Development from Nasarawa State University, Kura is also a member of the Chartered Institute of Bankers of Nigeria and the Institute of Professional Managers and Administrators of Nigeria.

His career journey spans roles at MTN Nigeria, Airtel Nigeria, ntel Nigeria, Fetswallet Ltd, and 9 Payment Service Bank. Currently, he is the Founder and CCO of KGM Ltd, specializing in financial and management consulting services.

For Kura, being the CCO of TSAT, Africa's leading satellite communications provider and a Thuraya service partner, is both a privilege and a responsibility. The company delivers seamless connectivity to remote and underserved areas, ensuring no community is left behind. TSAT plays a pivotal role in empowering critical sectors like defense, emergency response, agriculture, and education, contributing to Africa's socio-economic development, and reaffirming its commitment to empowering individuals and organizations across the continent. As a satellite service provider and Thuraya partner, TSAT's future plans focus on expanding satellite broadband solutions, integrating IoT-enabled services for smarter agriculture and logistics, deploying hybrid satellite-terrestrial networks,

and enhancing disaster recovery and emergency communication. The company is also committed to partnering with governments and private entities to improve education and healthcare connectivity through innovative satellite solutions.

TSAT's Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives are equally commendable. These include providing satellite-powered internet to rural schools, enabling telemedicine hubs for underserved communities, offering emergency communication services, and empowering women in rural areas through technology training. These projects underscore TSAT's dedication to leveraging satellite technology for societal good.

In addressing Nigeria's digital access gap, TSAT prioritizes expanding satellite coverage to reach remote areas, offering affordable connectivity solutions, and enhancing critical communication services for emergency responders and infrastructure operators. Its collaborative efforts with governments, NGOs, and private entities aim to foster digital inclusion and improve enterprise efficiency through customized satellite solutions.

For TSAT, challenges such as high deployment costs, limited awareness of satellite technology, regulatory hurdles, and a skills gap in satellite expertise pose threats to creativity and innovation. To counter these, TSAT advocates for awareness campaigns, policy simplifications, local talent development, infrastructure expansion, and public-private collaborations. By addressing the stated challenges strategically, TSAT insists it will continue to lead in connecting Nigeria because the company believes that these strategies will ensure TSAT remains at the forefront of connecting Nigeria and driving innovation in satellite communications.





Dr. Myke Ofili

Chief Executive Officer, Coloplus Worldwide Services

Dr. Myke Ofili is a seasoned professional with over 24 years of expertise in marketing strategy, business development, brand management, and growth strategy. He holds a Bachelor's degree from the University of Ibadan, a Master's degree from the University of Lagos, and a doctorate from NorthWest University, Mafikeng, South Africa.

Dr. Ofili began his career as the pioneer Brand Manager of MTS First Wireless, Nigeria's first mobile telecommunications company. He has held key leadership roles, including Head of Human Resources at Standard Alliance Insurance Group, Assistant General Manager/Head of Business Development and Marketing at Helios Towers (a leading African telecom infrastructure company), and Director of Marketing and Strategy at DBN Television. He currently serves as the Chief Executive Officer of Coloplus Nigeria, a prominent telecom infrastructure provider.

He has further honed his leadership skills by completing advanced management programs at the Lagos Business School and participating in various international courses and seminars.

Beyond his professional achievements, Dr. Ofili has made significant contributions as a researcher, editor, and consultant, and he actively supports industry growth through leadership roles in organizations such as the Association of Telecommunications Companies of Nigeria (ATCON).

Dr. Ofili has been actively involved with the Association of Telecommunications Companies of Nigeria (ATCON), serving in several capacities such as National Secretary, Publicity Secretary, Treasurer, and Financial Secretary. He has also contributed to intellectual and professional discourse as a contributing editor of Nigeria Stock Market Annual and senior researcher for Nigeria Political Leadership Titles – Nigeria: A Viable Black Power.

In addition to his extensive consulting experience in organizational development, talent management, and outsourcing strategies for blue-chip companies, Dr. Ofili is a director of multiple organizations, including Tunmak Industries Ltd, Frontier Fibre Networks Ltd, Imageplus Communications, Konaul Limited, and Mayomax Systems Limited.

The Company: Coloplus Worldwide Services

Founded in 2012 and licensed by the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC), Coloplus Worldwide Services is a trailblazer in telecommunications infrastructure co-location services in Nigeria. The company enables tower owners to optimize their assets by facilitating cost-effective co-location agreements, resulting in operational synergies and additional revenue streams.

Operating in Nigeria's rapidly growing telecom market, Coloplus addresses the industry's critical need for efficient infrastructure deployment. The company is a trusted partner to leading telecommunications operators, including MTN, Airtel, Smile, MAFAB, 9 Mobile, Swift, Spectranet and Cyberspace, with contracts under negotiation with additional key players.

Coloplus stands out due to its proven expertise, led by executives with combined over 50 years of experience in the telecom industry. Its services include marketing and managing excess capacity on towers, facilitating structural reinforcements for multi-tenant usage, and providing end-to-end support from customer deployment to billing and collections.

By fostering partnerships that optimize existing investments and reduce operational expenses, Coloplus empowers tower owners and network operators to focus on their core business objectives. Its strong market position, customer-centric approach, and commitment to delivering sustainable solutions make it a leader in the telecommunications infrastructure sector.





Ogunsakin Abiola

CEO of BillyRonks Global Ltd

Ogunsakin Abiola is a visionary leader and seasoned telecommunications expert with over 15 years of experience in driving business growth, product development, and innovation. As the CEO of BillyRonks Global Ltd, Abiola has been instrumental in shaping the company's strategy and vision, leveraging his expertise in business development, market analysis, and product innovation. Abiola's professional journey began in 2003 as a Hardware Engineer at Chams Nigeria Ltd, where he was responsible for maintaining card production machines and personalization systems. He later joined Sagem SA as an LGA Technical Coordinator, overseeing the training of staff and recruitment of ad-hoc personnel.

In 2004, Abiola joined ZTE Corporation as a BSS/Transmission Engineer, where he played a key role in planning and implementing transmission networks for various clients. His expertise in transmission planning, network optimization, and project management earned him recognition as a subject matter expert.

Abiola's subsequent roles at MTN Nigeria Communications Limited further honed his skills in business development, product innovation, and market analysis. As a Solutions Manager, he drove the development of enterprise solutions, including mobile financial services, and worked closely with cross-functional teams to launch new products and services.

As a Transmission Optimization Specialist, Abiola developed and implemented transmission network designs, optimized network capacity, and reduced CAPEX by 300%.

His achievements earned him recognition as a top performer, and he was appointed Acting Manager, Transmission Optimization, where he led a team of engineers and developed strategic plans for transmission network optimization.

Abiola holds a Bachelor of Engineering degree in Electrical Engineering from the University of Ilorin and is currently pursuing an MBA from the University of Bradford. He is a member of the Chartered Institute of Marketing (UK), Association of Computing Machinery, Project Management Institute (PMI), and Business Process Management Council. Throughout his career, Abiola has demonstrated exceptional leadership skills, driving teams to achieve uncommon results. His expertise in business development, product innovation, and market analysis has earned him recognition as a thought leader in the telecommunications industry.

Abiola's commitment to excellence, resilience, and ability to work independently in ambiguous situations make him a valuable asset to any organization. His passion for innovation and customer satisfaction has driven him to develop cutting-edge solutions that meet the evolving needs of customers.

In addition to his professional achievements, Abiola has also been involved in various volunteering activities, including serving as the Directorate Head, Follow Up and Visitation at RCCG Dominion Sanctuary, Acme, and coordinating broadband data access at the same organization.

Abiola's extensive experience, combined with his passion for innovation and customer satisfaction, make him an exceptional leader and expert in the telecommunications industry. His commitment to excellence and resilience in the face of challenges has earned him recognition as a top performer, and his ability to work independently in ambiguous situations makes him a valuable asset to any organization.





Oladele Ayanbadejo

Managing Director & Member of Board of Directors of Interconnect Clearing house Nigeria, (ICN).

Oladele Ayanbadejo is the Managing Director, and also a member of Board of Directors of Interconnect Clearinghouse Nigeria, (ICN).

Oladele Ayanbadejo has over 25 years' global experience and expertise in the field of Telecoms/Information Technology Management.

He started his career with the world renowned Telecoms group, Siemens, as a Transmission/Transport Network Engineer, with expertise in Satellite, Terrestrial Microwave and Fibre Optics Systems.

Oladele is widely travelled, with, training and working experience in Nigeria and overseas.

Oladele holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical and Electronics Engineering from University of Ibadan and a Master's degree in Business Administration, (MBA – Information Technology) from University of Leicester.

Oladele is married with children.





Olanrewaju Akinniye Ore

Founder of FiberOne Broadband Limited and KKON Technologies Limited

Defying his background in Microbiology from the University of Ibadan, Olanrewaju Akinniye Ore is presently calling the shot in Nigeria's tech landscape. He is the distinguished founder of FiberOne Broadband Limited and KKON Technologies Limited, both firms have consistently thrived and made impacts in the Nigeria's ICT terrain. As for FiberOne, it retains an envied reputation as the largest Fiber to the Home (FTTH) premium broadband provider in Nigeria.

The accomplished CEO has been one unapologetic driver of innovation and creativity, pulling all stops to make connectivity in the country unrivalled. The rapid soaring of FiberOne from five subscribers in 2018 to becoming a pioneer in the FTTH sector is a testament of Ore's unflinching drive for digital transformation, while supporting small businesses, educational institutions, and underserved communities. Beyond Nigeria, he has made imprint in Africa and Asia telecommunications, partnering multinational corporations like First Quantum Minerals and Verizon to develop tech economy in these jurisdictions.

Back in Nigeria, the Georgia State University and Lagos Business School alumni is sparing no expense to spread connectivity to all, as he envisions establishing the largest last-mile fiber infrastructure and most extensive long-haul fiber infrastructure in Nigeria. He trusts his leadership to pull this through via a dedicated workforce, however holds that economic pressures such as inflation, forex issues, high energy costs, and infrastructure problems continue to deter motivation, already forced many players out of the game.

For him, he forges ahead, exploring barriers to improve towards business sustainability.

He suggests looking into critical areas of multiple regulatory bodies posing tax risks; frequent road constructions tampering with FTTH and consequently downtime and costly emergency repairs. Yet, he believes a single and regulated pipeline system comes reliable than multiple pipelines thwarting regulation and exposing existing infrastructure to incessant damage.

These bottlenecks notwithstanding, he is poised to surpass the ambitious target of connecting over 10 million Nigerian homes with fiber optics.

Ore prioritises sustaining legacy and preserving IT knowledge, informing his investment in educating next generation of tech whiz. He identifies evolving landscape and increasing demand for high-speed and reliable internet. To match changing demands, he opines that ISPs must demonstrate commitment to innovation, sustainability, and customer-focused solutions to foster growth in Nigeria.

"FiberOne is dedicated to investing in fiber optic infrastructure. We are also exploring complementary services that align with the ultra-fast speeds and low latency of mobile internet. To meet the diverse needs of our customers, we offer flexible pricing options, including tiered plans that make internet access more affordable and inclusive", he declares.

FiberOne



Olawale Owoeye

Co-founder and Managing Director, Cedarview Communications Limited

Olawale Owoeye is the co-founder and Managing Director of Cedarview Communications Limited, bringing over 25 years of experience in telecommunications and digital innovation. He holds an MBA from the University of Manchester and a BSc in Electronic & Electrical Engineering from Obafemi Awolowo University. His extensive career includes leadership roles at Ericsson, Huawei, MTN, and Airtel, where he honed his expertise in project management, business development, and network operations.

Under his leadership, Cedarview Communications has emerged as a key player in Nigeria's telecommunications sector, expanding fiber networks across seven states. His unwavering focus on bridging the digital divide has enabled both urban enterprises and underserved rural communities to access reliable, high-speed internet. As a recognized thought leader, Olawale champions industry transformation by promoting high-quality digital infrastructure and fostering a future-ready telecommunications ecosystem.

Cedarview Communications: Future Plans for Innovation

Cedarview Communications is entering a new era of digital transformation. Its innovation roadmap includes:

Expanding Fiber Networks: Extending coverage to more states for seamless connectivity. **Investing in 5G:** Developing next-generation broadband to support Nigeria's digital economy. **Smart City Solutions:** Partnering with governments to enhance public safety and urban planning. **Digital Inclusion:** Expanding internet access to underserved communities for education and entrepreneurship. By leveraging technology, Cedarview is reshaping Nigeria's telecommunications landscape while ensuring affordability and accessibility.

CSR Initiatives by Cedarview Communications

Cedarview Communications is deeply committed to social responsibility, undertaking several impactful initiatives, including: **Education Support:** Partnering with primary and secondary schools to provide free internet access, enhancing digital learning opportunities. **NYSC Connectivity Program:** Deploying internet services at NYSC camps to support career and youth development and professional networking. **Tech Empowerment for SMEs:** Offering subsidized internet packages for small businesses to foster digital entrepreneurship. **Community Development Projects:** Providing free Wi-Fi hotspots in public areas, enabling wider access to information and resources.

Corporate Profile

Cedarview Communications is a leading Nigerian telecom company, offering high-speed fiber broadband, enterprise solutions, and digital infrastructure across seven states, driving innovation and connectivity.

Corporate Advertisement

Stay connected with Cedarview Communications' high-speed fiber network. Whether for business, study, or entrepreneurship, we keep you ahead with a seamless, reliable internet. Join us in building a smarter, more connected Nigeria today.

Challenges to Innovation & Future Directions

Despite telecom advancements, challenges persist, including limited rural infrastructure, outdated regulations, high technology costs, and a shortage of skilled professionals, all hindering innovation and growth. To drive growth, Nigeria's telecom sector must focus on regulatory reforms, increased infrastructure investment, and digital skills development to enhance connectivity and innovation.

Under Olawale Owoeye's visionary leadership, Nigeria's telecom industry is set for continuous innovation and digital growth. Cedarview Communications drives progress through strategic investments, advanced technology, and a commitment to inclusive connectivity.

Cedarview
a new wave of thought...



Olumogba Adetunji

Founder, NextGen Telecoms Limited

Olumogba Adetunji is a visionary entrepreneur and a leading force in Nigeria's telecommunications sector, recognized for his dedication to digital innovation and connectivity. With a background in Geophysics from Olabisi Onabanjo University and specialized training from BSNL (India), UTL Technologies (India), and TTC Mobile Limited (Nigeria), he has played a significant role in advancing the country's telecom and broadcast industries.

In 2017, he founded Median Technology, a consulting and systems integration firm providing cutting-edge solutions. Under his leadership, the company has become a trusted name in digital transformation, empowering businesses and individuals with next-generation telecom services.

Future Innovation Roadmap

Under Adetunji's leadership, NextGen Telecoms Limited is committed to driving Nigeria's digital transformation by:

Expanding broadband access to underserved regions. Integrating 5G, IoT, and AI into user-centric solutions. Partnering with educational institutions to promote tech innovation. Supporting SMEs with scalable, cost-effective digital solutions. Through these initiatives, NextGen Telecoms aims to accelerate Nigeria's digital inclusion and technological growth.

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Initiatives

Adetunji's organizations actively engage in CSR initiatives to create a lasting impact. Digital Literacy Programs – Training young Nigerians in IT skills. Rural Broadband Access Projects – Extending internet connectivity to remote areas. Educational Support – Donating ICT equipment and offering scholarships. Sustainability Campaigns – Promoting e-waste recycling and green technology adoption.

Corporate Profile

NextGen Telecoms Limited is a premier telecommunications and broadband provider in Nigeria, offering innovative solutions tailored for households, businesses, educational institutions, carriers, and cloud service providers. Committed to excellence and innovation, the company ensures seamless connectivity and digital services that transform lives and businesses.

Corporate Advertisement

NextGen Telecoms Limited – Transforming Connectivity, Redefining Innovation. Step into the future with NextGen. From high-speed broadband to next-generation digital solutions, we bridge the gap between technology and possibilities. Our cutting-edge infrastructure ensures seamless connectivity, empowering businesses and individuals with fast, reliable, and secure digital experiences. Whether it's smart city solutions, cloud services, or advanced telecom innovations, we are committed to driving progress. Stay connected, stay ahead, and embrace limitless opportunities.

Challenges & Future Directions

Despite significant progress, several challenges threaten creativity and innovation in Nigeria's telecom sector: Infrastructure Gaps – Limited broadband infrastructure hinders digital access. Regulatory Barriers – Inconsistent policies and high costs slow innovation. Talent Shortage – A lack of skilled professionals in AI, IoT, and emerging tech. Economic Constraints – Currency fluctuations impact investments in technology.

To overcome these challenges, industry players must:

Strengthen public-private partnerships to improve infrastructure. Advocate favorable policies that encourage investment and operational efficiency. Invest in talent development to bridge the skills gap in emerging technologies. With Adetunji's leadership and commitment to innovation, NextGen Telecoms will continue shaping Nigeria's digital landscape, driving transformative change, and fostering a technologically advanced future.





Olusegun Okuneye

**Deputy Director, Strategic Business Initiatives,
ipNX Nigeria Limited**

Olusegun Okuneye, Deputy Director of Strategic Business Initiatives at ipNX Nigeria Limited, is a seasoned leader in the ICT sector with over two decades of experience. His expertise spans systems integration and telecommunications, positioning him as a thought leader in digital innovation. Okuneye is a key voice in Africa's digital transformation, driving impactful discussions on broadband, ICT development, and technology adoption. A frequent speaker at global conferences, he has contributed to shaping Nigeria's National Broadband Plan 2022–2025.

ipNX's Future Plans for Innovation and Creativity

ipNX Nigeria Limited aims to become a dominant ICT brand in Africa by developing innovative solutions tailored to regional needs. The company recognizes that solving Africa's digital challenges requires strategic collaboration with governments, technology firms, startups, academic institutions, and industry associations. ipNX is investing heavily in research and development to stay ahead in emerging technologies like AI, cloud computing, and next-generation broadband. By understanding market demands and driving innovation, the company is shaping Africa's digital transformation through a sustainable tech ecosystem.

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Initiatives

ipNX is committed to social impact through initiatives focused on health, education, and youth empowerment. Some notable CSR projects include: Educational Support: Partnering with the Lagos State Government to provide internet connectivity to over 22 secondary schools, enhancing digital learning access for thousands of students. Community Development: Engaging with Oyo and Enugu state governments to expand digital access across different regions.

Talent Development: Supporting youth programs that equip young Nigerians with digital skills for tech careers.

Corporate Profile

ipNX Nigeria Limited is a leading ICT and telecommunications company delivering innovative solutions in broadband, enterprise connectivity, and smart infrastructure. With a focus on digital transformation, ipNX provides cutting-edge technology to enhance productivity, drive business growth, foster digital inclusion across Nigeria and Africa.

Corporate Advertisement

Empowering the Future, Connecting Africa!

At ipNX, we provide more than internet and digital solutions—we shape the future. From high-speed broadband to enterprise technology, we power businesses, transform education, and drive Africa's digital revolution.

Challenges to Creativity and Innovation in the ICT Sector & Future Directions

Despite advancements, Nigeria's ICT sector faces key challenges: Infrastructure Deficiencies: Unreliable power supply and underdeveloped broadband infrastructure hinder digital expansion. Limited Access to Capital: Startups struggle to secure funding for research and innovation. Talent Shortage: A skills gap in AI, cybersecurity, and data science slows industry growth. Market Fragmentation: Economic instability and regulatory barriers hinder scaling digital solutions across Africa. Resistance to Change: Traditional business models and slow adoption prevent rapid transformation.

To foster innovation, Olusegun Okuneye advocates that stakeholders must invest in infrastructure, regulatory reforms, and industry partnerships while boosting ICT startup funding and digital literacy.

The future of innovation is now—let's build it together.

ipNX



Osinachi Agulanna

Legal Adviser, Cobranet

As Cobranet's Legal Adviser, Osinachi Agulanna exemplifies professional excellence and innovative leadership in the telecommunications space. With a distinguished background in top-tier law firms and an education from the prestigious University of Lagos, Osinachi has been instrumental in shaping Cobranet's legal strategy and ensuring robust compliance with regulatory standards.

Her experience extends beyond legal oversight; she is known for fostering creativity in contract structuring, regulatory navigation, and strategic risk management. Under her guidance, Cobranet has remained agile and adaptive in Nigeria's rapidly evolving telecom sector.

Cobranet, established in 2003, is one of Nigeria's leading Internet Service Providers, known for its high-quality internet solutions for businesses and residences across Lagos, Abuja, and other key cities.

Utilising a resilient radio and fibre network, Cobranet offers dependable services that position it as a sector leader. Osinachi's legal guidance along with the management's leadership aligns seamlessly with the company's plans to expand connectivity and upgrade its infrastructure, reinforcing its commitment to delivering exceptional internet access across Nigeria.

Beyond its service offerings, Cobranet actively contributes to social development. During COVID-19, the company demonstrated its commitment to the community by providing consistent palliative support to underserved citizens, ensuring

that essential resources were available to those most in need. This continued dedication to community welfare reflects Cobranet's values of social responsibility and positive impact.

In today's challenging economic climate, marked by inflation and naira devaluation, Cobranet faces significant operational cost pressures, prompting a shift from aggressive expansion to sustainable growth strategies.

It can be suggested that targeted tax relief and government support could help alleviate these financial strains, allowing Cobranet and other telecommunications leaders to maintain critical investments in innovation and infrastructure upgrades. Moving forward, strategic legal insight and strong leadership will be essential to navigating these obstacles. Osinachi's expertise will play a pivotal role in supporting Cobranet's commitment to expanding connectivity across Nigeria.





Otuya Okecha

Managing Director, Fibresol Nigeria Limited

A fair appraisal of the growth recorded in the Nigerian telecommunications and digital economy sector cannot but spotlight individuals such as Otuya Okecha, who are dreamers, doers and drivers of the sector.

Otuya is a distinguished digital economy personality with his experience and services in various capacities spurring digital growth and acceleration of technology expansion and adoption. Otuya currently serves as the Managing Director of Fibresol Nigeria Limited. He is a digital development professional with two decades of practical experience and has been at the forefront of bridging digital infrastructure and solutions gaps in Nigeria.

His competent leadership is a testament to his academic excellence. He has a Master's in Technology Management degree with a 4.0 GPA from Georgetown University. He has a bachelor's degree in Industrial Mathematics and has certifications from Harvard, Oxford, and Stellenbosch Universities. As a digitalization optimization consultant, Otuya has led his company, Fibresol, to actively contribute to Developmental Policy in several Presidential Business Quarterly Review sessions organized by the office of the vice president of Nigeria. Furthermore, Otuya led Fibresol to successfully serve as Corporate DSA to Airtel Networks, where he brokered and structured strategic high-yield enterprise connectivity and Access Point Network (APN) solutions business dealings. He improved program performance for a Needle Technology project by monitoring 39 School Knowledge Centre ICT projects under the Universal Service Provision Fund Programme.



Mr. Otuya significantly contributed to long-range financial planning for digital infrastructure budgets of up to \$3 million and systems with large and mid-sized corporate client users for fiber broadband companies. As strategy consultant to Backbone Connectivity Network (BCN), Otuya negotiated and signed a strategic partnership with Google that provided the first solar-powered g-Station Wi-Fi project.

He further forged strategic alliances with the United States Trade Development Agency (USTDA) that attracted over \$2 million in grant support for feasibility studies and business plan development for the regional fiber broadband expansion plans of BCN in Nigeria. It is Otuya's accomplished desire that his company, Fibresol, would be a unique stop-shop for business advisory and consultancy service support to help bridge the digital infrastructure and solutions gaps, starting from Nigeria and extending to sub-Saharan Africa for starters. Under his leadership, Fibresol, has helped structure and channel enterprise connectivity and Access Point Network solutions dealings for Airtel Networks. Its other clients include Backbone Connectivity Networks Limited, Quomodo Systems Africa, and Techspecialist Consulting Limited (TCL), among others. To give back to the society, Fibresol align this with our free mentoring programs, doing this for the PIPA-MTN middle management program and the Quomodo Systems Africa Sales team.

Meanwhile, Otuya is an advocate of a synergy between stakeholders in the Power and Digital sectors, for he believes that the sector cannot move further without addressing the power issue for running digital infrastructure and networks. Looking ahead, Otuya's dream is that Fibresol would transcend telecom and IT-centric companies and give more focus to technopreneurs, who have great innovation but are limited by corporate strategy for growth.



Oyaje Idoko

Chief Executive Officer and Founder of Layer3

Oyaje Idoko is the Chief Executive Officer and Founder of Layer3, a leading cloud and IT solutions provider in Nigeria. A prominent voice in Africa's Information and Communication Technology sector, Oyaje has distinguished himself as a leader in Nigeria's cloud computing, networking, and cybersecurity landscapes, with impact extending well beyond Nigeria.

After earning a degree in Communications Engineering from the Federal University of Technology, Owerri, he pursued advanced studies at Stanford Graduate School of Business through their prestigious Executive Program. A distinguished alumnus of the Stanford Seed Program, Oyaje's notable achievements have garnered both local and international recognition, including a place on Guardian newspaper's list of 50 Most Inspiring Personalities in Nigeria as well as the International Who's Who of Professionals. In 2019, he was inducted into the Beacon of ICT Hall of Fame, cementing his status as a trailblazer in Nigeria's ICT industry.

With nearly two decades of expertise, Oyaje's career trajectory has included working with leading industry players before founding Layer3 in 2005. Under his leadership, Layer3 has become a powerhouse in indigenous technology, pioneering several innovations, including locally hosted cloud services with multiple availability zones as well as managed technology services designed for African businesses. His vision has expanded Layer3's reach through strategic partnerships with some of the global leaders in technology such as Juniper Networks, VMware and Cisco, and with the recent launch of a managed Network-as-a-Service (NaaS) offering, all contributing to a redefined network connectivity landscape in Nigeria.

Beyond business, Layer3 is committed to societal investment through initiatives in education, youth empowerment, internship programs, talent development, community engagement, digital literacy, and humanitarian support.

At Layer3, Oyaje fosters a culture of creativity and innovation, encouraging a workplace environment that promotes learning, experimentation, and collaboration. He believes these values are essential for Nigeria to harness its tech potential and compete globally.

Looking ahead, Oyaje anticipates exponential growth in Nigeria's ICT sector, though he acknowledges challenges such as infrastructure limitations, talent gaps, and cybersecurity risks. Layer3 is actively addressing these challenges through investments in local cloud services, fiber networks, data center infrastructure, and talent development.

Oyaje envisions a future where advancements in AI, machine learning, cybersecurity, and edge computing drive the industry forward. As he leads Layer3's contributions to Nigeria's digital transformation, he remains focused on delivering long-term value for businesses in Nigeria and beyond.





Peter Ejiofor

Founder and CEO, Ethnos Cyber Ltd

Peter Ejiofor, Founder & CEO of Ethnos Cyber Ltd, is a leading cybersecurity expert with 15+ years of experience in information security. He has shaped digital security strategies by collaborating with global leaders and integrating cutting-edge solutions into business frameworks. He spearheaded Aquila, a mobile security platform, and Castellum, a security awareness tool—revolutionizing digital protection. His impact on Africa's cybersecurity landscape has influenced best practices in both public and private sectors.

Ethnos Cyber Ltd's Future Plans for Innovation and Creativity

Ethnos Cyber Ltd is committed to expanding its innovative solutions under Peter's leadership. The company plans to: Establish an R&D Hub to develop next-generation security solutions. Integrate AI-driven cybersecurity tools for real-time threat detection. Enhance cloud security and IoT protection to address emerging digital vulnerabilities. Launch educational initiatives to build a strong cybersecurity talent pipeline. Expand into global markets, solidifying its presence beyond Africa. Ethnos Cyber stays ahead through AI, automation, and continuous research.

CSR Initiatives: Strengthening Digital Security Awareness

Ethnos Cyber Ltd has demonstrated a strong commitment to corporate social responsibility by launching several impactful initiatives: Ethnos Cyber's Impactful Initiatives: Cybersecurity Training – Educating schools and SMEs on cyber hygiene. Talent Development – Hands-on training for future cybersecurity pros.

Digital Literacy Campaigns – Empowering individuals and small businesses. Pro Bono Support for NGOs – Securing non-profits' digital assets. Youth Tech Empowerment

– Mentoring future tech leaders. Ethnos Cyber is committed to a safer digital world through education and community engagement.

Corporate Profile

Ethnos Cyber Ltd: Securing the Digital Future Ethnos Cyber Ltd is a top cybersecurity firm specializing in security consulting, risk assessments, and infrastructure development. We empower businesses, financial institutions, and government agencies with cutting-edge solutions, including penetration testing, security training, digital forensics, and compliance auditing.

Corporate Advertisement

Protect Your Digital World with Ethnos Cyber Ltd! At Ethnos Cyber, we secure your business with cutting-edge cybersecurity solutions. From AI-driven threat detection to advanced security awareness training, we help you stay ahead of cyber threats. Partner with us today and safeguard your digital future!

Challenges Hindering Creativity and Innovation in Cybersecurity

Peter Ejiofor identifies several obstacles affecting innovation in cybersecurity: Reactive Security Measures: Many organizations focus on responding to threats rather than proactively innovating. Talent Shortage: A lack of skilled cybersecurity professionals limits creative problem-solving and industry growth. Insufficient R&D Investment: Many companies, especially in emerging markets, struggle to allocate resources for research-driven innovation.

Future Directions

To overcome these barriers, Peter advocates for: Proactive R&D Investment to anticipate cybersecurity challenges before they escalate. Stronger Talent Pipelines through partnerships with universities and internship programs. Industry Collaboration to facilitate knowledge-sharing, joint innovation, and strategic partnerships. Ethnos Cyber drives digital security through research, talent, and global collaboration.





Raymond David Wodi

Founder and CEO 3R

Raymond David Wodi is an Entrepreneur, Philosopher and Polymath with acute knowledge of the uniquely dynamic interplay of the crucial microeconomic elements and forces that determine the status of a nation's economy. Mr Wodi is the Founder/CEO 3R Company Nigeria Limited.

He obtained a Bachelor of Science Degree in Accounting from the University of Port Harcourt. Mr. Wodi conceptualized the Tax Identification Number (TIN) system in 2006 which has become Nigeria's most potent tax administration system to date.

3R is the leader and pioneer of Revenue Assurance/Fraud Management solutions in Nigeria. 3R has won numerous accolades both within and outside Nigeria. 3R is the Federal Government of Nigeria partner/concessionaire for the Revenue Assurance Solution (RAS) project. The RAS project is designed to grow Nigeria's non-oil revenue by deploying 3R's battle tested Revenue Assurance Solution platform in the Nigerian Telecommunications and Digital Economy Ecosystems.

Only a handful of Nigerians know that CBN had declared in 2021 on her E-payment statistic portal E-payment transactions totaling N1.6 quadrillion for January - December 2021. Remember that one (1) quadrillion is 1,000 trillion. The said N1.6 quadrillion has various tax footprints such as VAT, PPT, PIT, PAYE, AOL, Stamp Duty and other taxes and levies. In 3R, we believe that if a robust and intelligent system can be built with algorithms capturing the peculiarities of the Nigerian economic system, and deployed with a base capability to squeeze out 2% revenue from the N1.6 quadrillion, Nigeria will instantly generate over N30 trillion

revenue per annum, and all the talks about the abnormally low tax to GDP ratio will disappear along with the forced endless borrowing.

3R is the only Company in the world with the first-of-its-kind revenue system that can fill this gap and timeously rescue the Nigerian economy and transmute Nigeria from a borrowing nation to a lending nation within a short period.

Robust Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) is part of our culture at 3R, apart from constantly providing the government with unique economy boosters and technology which have direct positive impact on the wellbeing of citizenry, we ensure that our activities add positives to people and the environment both mentally, physically and materially.

The non-existent reward system in Africa have stifled creativity and innovation. Glaring shameless display of proceeds and rewards of corruption and crime in an impoverished continent such as Africa, have discouraged the trade and practice of creativity and innovation by making the later look mundane, unattractive, a mere time wasting and eternally unrewarding. If only Africa will mete out instant punishments to criminals (corrupt persons and perpetrators of heinous crimes) and also instantly reward creative and innovative people, then and only then can we see the transformation of Africa for the good of all.





Reuben Oshomah

Regional Director for West Africa at Avanti Satellite Communications

Reuben Oshomah, the Regional Director for West Africa at Avanti Satellite Communications, is a visionary leader committed to transforming digital access across the region. With a career spanning major tech companies such as Microsoft and Ericsson, Reuben has consistently championed digital innovation, connectivity, and financial inclusion. His leadership at Avanti is marked by strategic expansions, groundbreaking partnerships, and a focus on leveraging satellite technology to close the digital divide in underserved communities. At Avanti, Reuben spearheads initiatives that deploy cutting-edge Ka-band high-throughput satellites, enabling robust internet access across West Africa. The company's Gateway Earth Station in Senegal, launched under his leadership, is a testament to this commitment, expanding coverage and enhancing connectivity for millions. Through innovative satellite solutions, Reuben is helping governments, businesses, and communities harness the power of digital technology for sustainable development.

Avanti's Bold Vision for Innovation:

10,000+ Connected Communities: Expanding satellite internet to more schools and villages across Africa. Stronger Partnerships: Teaming up with telecoms, governments, and businesses for tailored solutions. Rural Broadband Boost: Delivering affordable, high-speed internet to remote areas. Future-Ready Education: Powering e-learning, digital literacy, and tech-driven skills development.

Past Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Initiatives

Reuben's Impactful CSR Initiatives: Empowering Girls: Partnering with GPE to advance girls' education in Kenya, with expansion plans for West Africa.

School Connectivity: Free satellite internet for rural schools, unlocking e-learning opportunities. Disaster Response: Reliable satellite connectivity for emergency teams when networks fail. Tech Hubs: Digital access and training for small businesses and young innovators in underserved areas.

Corporate Profile of Avanti Satellite Communications

Avanti: Connecting Africa, Empowering the Future With \$800M+ invested in Africa, Avanti Satellite Communications delivers high-speed, reliable internet to governments, businesses, and rural communities. Our cutting-edge Ka-band satellite technology powers digital transformation in education, healthcare, and enterprise—bridging the connectivity gap and unlocking new opportunities. Avanti—Fast. Reliable.

Corporate Advertisement

Powering Africa's Digital Future with Avanti! Fast. Reliable. Everywhere. Avanti delivers high-speed satellite internet, connecting schools, businesses, and communities across Africa. Stay ahead with seamless connectivity—anytime, anywhere. Let's bridge the digital divide together!

Challenges Slowing Africa's Digital Revolution:

Sky-High Costs: Expensive satellite infrastructure limits accessibility. Regulatory Roadblocks: Complex policies slow innovation. Skill Gaps: Too few trained experts in satellite and digital tech. Price Barriers: Costly internet and digital tools keep many offline. Cyber Threats: Expanding connectivity demands stronger security.

Future Directions

To drive innovation, leaders like Reuben push for: Smarter Policies: Streamline regulations to fast-track digital growth. Stronger Partnerships: Uniting tech, government, and education for impact. Future-Ready Talent: Boost STEM, training, and mentorship. Affordable Internet: Cutting-edge satellite tech for wider, cheaper access. With Oshomah leading the charge, Africa's digital future is set for explosive growth—fueling connectivity, creativity, and economic transformation.





Salvation Alibor (Salvy Gaius)

Founder, Xpark360 and Premium Digital Marketing Academy (PDMA)

Salvation Alibor, popularly known as Salvy Gaius, has been at the forefront of Africa's digital transformation and creative innovation for over two decades. With a background in electronic engineering and a deep passion for bridging Africa's digital divide, he has led multiple groundbreaking ventures. His journey from SignOnAfrica to founding Xpark360 and Premium Digital Marketing Academy (PDMA) showcases his relentless pursuit of technological empowerment and creative excellence. Salvy has successfully blended innovation, business growth, and digital empowerment, making a lasting impact on businesses, startups, and communities.

Future Plans for Innovation & Creativity

Salvy's organizations are gearing up for the next phase of digital disruption, focusing on: Agrotech – Leveraging data-driven solutions to enhance food security and smart farming. AI & VR in Digital Marketing – Creating immersive advertising experiences to engage African consumers. Startup Empowerment – Providing mentorship and global market access for African startups. Media & Content Distribution – Expanding platforms for creators and businesses to share their stories. Digital Literacy & Skills Training – Equipping youth and professionals with the right tools.

CSR Initiatives Completed

Salvy's organizations have actively contributed to community development and digital empowerment: Digital Skill-Up Program – Trained unemployed graduates in graphic design, SEO, and web development, leading to tech job placements. Street-to-Technician Project – Provided fiber optics training and safety equipment for street youth, creating employment opportunities.

Financial Literacy Program – Partnered with Awaba Bank to educate underserved communities on financial management and digital banking. Youth Sports Development Program – Sponsored football mentorship programs, nurturing young talents and promoting discipline.

Corporate Profile

Founded in 2015, Xpark360 is a leading creative agency specializing in digital advertising, experiential marketing, and brand storytelling. We connect global brands with African consumers through innovative strategies, empowering businesses and individuals in the digital age.

Corporate Advertisement

"Unlock the Future with Xpark360! Where creativity meets technology, we craft immersive advertising campaigns and digital solutions that captivate and inspire. Partner with us today—let's redefine the future of marketing and business together!"

Challenges to Creativity & Innovation

Despite Africa's rapid digital growth, several obstacles hinder creativity and innovation: Limited Funding – Access to venture capital remains a major barrier for startups and innovators. Infrastructure Deficiencies – Unstable power supply and poor broadband access slow digital adoption. Skill Gaps – A lack of digital literacy and advanced tech skills limits innovation. Regulatory Barriers – Bureaucracy and inconsistent policies create hurdles for tech-driven businesses.

Future Directions for the Industry

Unlocking Africa's digital and creative potential requires strong public-private partnerships, investment in digital education, innovation hubs for collaboration, and supportive policies that empower tech entrepreneurs. Gaius's visionary leadership is shaping the future of Africa's creative and digital economy. Through innovation and strategic growth, he continues to pave the way for a thriving digital Africa.





Shakiru Kolawole Adepoju

MD/CEO IQI Technology LTD

Shakiru Kolawole Adepoju is the Managing Director and CEO of IQI Technology LTD, a leading provider of outsourcing and internet services in Nigeria.

With over 15 years of post-academic and managerial experience, Adepoju combines technical expertise with strategic business acumen, enabling him to deliver innovative solutions across diverse domains. His leadership emphasizes quality management, business process re-engineering, and client engagement, driving measurable outcomes in every project.

At IQI Technology LTD, Adepoju oversees key functions such as service quality management, third-party relations, client relationship management, and cost optimization. He is adept at setting up cloud-based call centers, enabling remote operations, and implementing issue-tracking systems to enhance customer service efficiency.

His approach is rooted in innovation and a commitment to continuous improvement, ensuring compliance with business processes through retrospective evaluations and strategic updates. His career highlights at IQI Technology LTD include Enhanced program and service quality through the development of new applications and system evaluations; Directed budget management strategies to minimize overhead costs and improve operational efficiency; Led initiatives to optimize client relationships and streamline task delegation for improved project outcomes.

As a Senior Executive Management Staff at Benin Electricity PLC (2014–2021), Adepoju contributed significantly to customer care and application support. His key achievements include:

- Spearheading the implementation of a scalable remote call center solution, accommodating up to 1,000 agents for inbound and outbound operations.
- Played a pivotal role in business process re-engineering, process documentation, and IT project management, including billing systems, electronic payment solutions, and business intelligence.
- Coordinated cross-departmental meetings and collaborations, particularly with TetraTech and Transmission Company of Nigeria, under USTDA and Power Africa initiatives.
- Supported business units in identifying loss points and provided actionable recommendations to senior management.
- Managed customer care operations and IT support systems, including overseeing a team of 63 staff and implementing cloud call center solutions.

Adepoju is a visionary leader, adept at managing change and mentoring teams, with a proven ability to handle complex situations with integrity. His technical knowledge spans enterprise resource planning (ERP) systems, remote operations, and quality management, underscoring his capacity to integrate innovative strategies into organizational frameworks.

Through his leadership, Adepoju continues to drive impactful technological advancements and outsourcing solutions, fostering organizational growth and delivering exceptional value to clients.



...connecting innovative minds.



Tinuade Oguntuyi

General Manager (Technical) at Information Connectivity Solutions Limited (ICSL)

Tinuade Oguntuyi is a multi-award-winning transformational technology leader with over thirteen years of experience in telecoms, IP networks, technical sales, IT solutions, infrastructure design, consulting, policy, and customer experience.

She graduated from Olabisi Onabanjo University with a B.Sc. in Computer Science and advanced her industry knowledge through mMBA in Telecoms (Telecoms and Tech Academy, UK) and an mMBA in Business Innovation (Tekedia Institute, Boston). She has also earned several relevant industry certifications and professional trainings. She uses numerous technologies, including satellite, microwave, fiber optics, SIM, and cloud, to create cutting-edge connectivity solutions that have greatly helped Nigeria.

Tinuade is the General Manager Technical at Information Connectivity Solutions Limited (ICSL), a premium ISP and technology company in Nigeria. Her work includes, among other things, machine-to-machine communications, GSM backhauling via satellite in rural communities and hard-to-get settlements, and federal and state-wide WAN connectivity. She partners with several ODMs and OEMs to deliver bespoke terrestrial and non-terrestrial network solutions. She has successfully designed and implemented over thirty major network infrastructure projects in more than 12 sectors—government, education, financial institutions, among others. Tinuade is a Co-Chair of the Infrastructure, Access, and Connectivity working group of the Internet Society (Nigeria Chapter), a Nigerian School on Internet Governance Fellow, and a passionate STEM inclusion driver who imparts her knowledge through mentorship programs, support

groups, local and global industry speaking engagements, and other social impact activities and encourages women and girls interested in STEM fields. She co-founded the TinuAdeniyi Tech Foundation, a community dedicated to empowering individuals through STEM education, with a special focus on marginalized and minority groups and she is advisory board member of the Women's Technology Empowerment Centre (WTEC).

With her over 13 years of experience deploying bespoke terrestrial and non-terrestrial solutions, Tinu has always focused on leveraging technology to bridge gaps and create opportunities. In a region where connectivity is not just a utility but a critical lifeline, she sees her role as driving innovative solutions that empower communities, enhance economic growth, and position Africa as a global leader in telecommunications. No doubt, Leadership in this space demands resilience and a vision for the future.

She is part of the future plans to harness emerging technologies like AI, IoT, and blockchain to redefine connectivity. In her words, "ICSL prioritizes training and empowering our team to drive innovation." Mrs. Oguntuyi holds that obstacles like economic instability, regulatory challenges, power supply issues, and talent drain threaten creativity and digital innovation in Nigeria. To overcome these challenges, she joins has repeatedly advocated for a multi-stakeholder approach, championing policies that incentivize local manufacturing and innovation, and promoting collaborations between the private sector, government, and academia.

Meanwhile, her company, ICSL has championed notable CSR initiatives is integrating interns and fresh graduates into the IT and corporate world, providing guidance and skills development. This program has contributed significantly to the growth of Nigeria digital economy space.





Wole Adetuyi

Managing Director of Swift Telephone Network (STN)

Oluwole Adetuyi is an Economics graduate of the University of Lagos.

He is a Cisco Certified Network Associate (CCNA), with in-depth understanding and experience in the telecommunication industry. He has attended several management courses including the Nitel Training School amongst others. One of the key programs attended is the telecommunications personnel and administrative management course.

He has grown through the ranks with a wealth of experience in

- Human Resources
- Administration
- External Line Plant
- Switching

He has been involved in several of telecommunications projects including the University of Lagos World Bank sponsored project amongst many others. He has also coordinated telecom infrastructure projects from Site Build, Tower Project Deployment and Optic Fibre Cable Projects.

Oluwole Adetuyi is the Managing Director of Swift Telephone Network (STN) as well as a Director of Tryphena & Tryphosa Nig. Ltd. (TTNL). He provides the visionary direction for STN and leads high level networking for both companies' businesses.

He possesses extensive business management experience in the telecoms and Oil & Gas industry, with over 15 years of experience.





Mr. Yemi Oshodi

Managing Director of Information Connectivity Solutions Limited

Mr. Oshodi earned his degrees from Hofstra University in Hempstead, New York, and New York University in New York.

He is an adept finance and technology professional with over 30 years of high-level financial industry experience gained at major global institutions in New York. He was a co-founder and Managing Director at Brencourt Advisors, a Billion-dollar hedge fund in New York, he was also Managing Director, Joint Head of Event Driven/Special Situations Trading and Sales at Wallach Beth Capital LLC and a Managing Director/Head of Event Driven/Risk Arbitrage Research at Tullet Prebon Americas before joining Information Connectivity Solutions Limited (ICSL) in Lagos, Nigeria, as Chief Operating Officer in 2015.

ICSL is a premium ISP with coverage across Nigeria that serves a wide range of industries; he was appointed to the board in March 2019. Under his leadership, he has repositioned ICSL from just an ISP into a technology company that has expanded into other businesses like IGR and Software Applications development leveraging on ICSLs' existing infrastructure and coverage.

Mr. Oshodi is firm a firm believer in Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in the workplace, and he has actively preached and practiced while at ICSL. His aspiration for the future of creativity and innovations involve continuous technology adoption and disruption that lead one to focus on establishing a solid foundation that can accept varying business models. He emphasized that ICSL strives to be adaptable and it tries not to be dogmatic when it comes to tech. The future is always unknown, according to him.

Regarding what ICSL is doing to digital access gap and improve quality of service in Nigeria, he said it is an open secret that ICSL have a Vsat business and recent advances in solar technology which give it the ability to deliver service absolutely anywhere in the Country. He disclosed that the company is also working on many other initiatives that will be revealed in due course.

Mr. Oshodi believes that the digital economy sector is not without its challenges. He identified the major threats to include Nigeria's weak currency, the Naira that takes up a lot of operators' time as the volatility in the exchange rate makes the environment a difficult one to operate in.

As far as future direction is concerned, he posits that AI will play a huge part in future dealings. It is already playing a huge role. As such he is determined to steer ICSL to expand its knowledge base on that space to take advantage of the opportunities it might provide for the firm.

