

ntel Insights



TELECOM EXPANSION MUST DELIVER VALUE TO PEOPLE, SAYS TIJANI

THE GUARDIAN

Minister of Communications, Innovation and Digital Economy, Bosun Tijani, has emphasized that Nigeria's telecommunications investments must move beyond simple network expansion to deliver

tangible benefits for citizens. Speaking at the inauguration of the USPF Board in Abuja, he argued that while GSM progress has been steady, connectivity alone does not guaranteed economic opportunity.

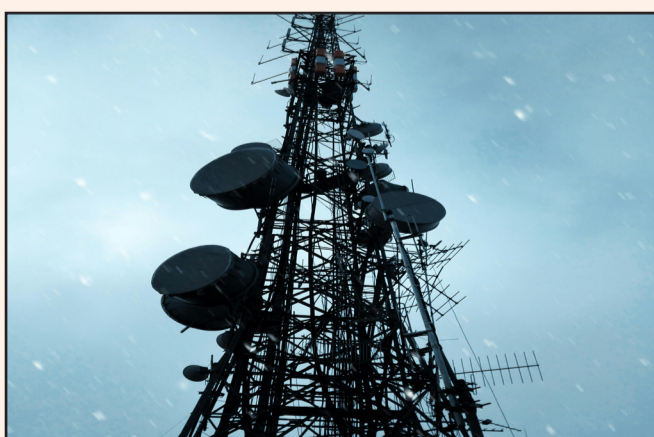
He urged the board to prioritize how infrastructure can specifically improve livelihoods, support local businesses, and deepen digital inclusion, particularly in rural communities where the gap between access and opportunity remains widest.

NCC UNVEILS TELECOMS IDENTITY RISK PLATFORM TO TACKLE FRAUD, BOOST DIGITAL TRUST

VANGUARD

The Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) has unveiled plans for a new Telecoms Identity Risk Management System (TIRMS) platform aimed at curbing fraud, strengthening digital security, and restoring trust in Nigeria's fast-growing digital economy.

NCC Executive Vice Chairman, Dr. Aminu Maida, has announced a new regulatory platform and framework designed to combat fraud and identity theft within the telecommunications sector. Speaking at a consultative forum in Abuja, Maida highlighted that while mobile numbers (MSISDN) have become essential for financial transactions and digital identity, they have also become primary targets for abuse. He specifically identified recycled, swapped, and barred SIMs as major vulnerabilities used by criminals to undermine confidence in Nigeria's digital economy.



IFC INVESTS \$45M TO GREEN AFRICAN TELECOM SITES

NIGERIAN COMMUNICATIONS WEEK

Clean and reliable power for telecom networks in Ethiopia, Liberia and Sierra Leone will be expanded following a \$45 million investment by the International Finance Corporation (IFC) in IPT PowerTech.

The investment targets countries where limited power supply continues to slow digital connectivity and broader economic participation, the institution stated earlier this week.

To enable this expansion, the IFC is providing a \$45 million corporate financing package consisting of an A-loan of \$27 million and \$18 million in blended finance.



TELECOM EXPANSION MUST DELIVER VALUE TO PEOPLE, SAYS TIJANI

At the inauguration of the Universal Service Provision Fund (USPF) board in Abuja, the Minister of Communications and Digital Economy, Bosun Tijani, issued a direct challenge to an industry that has long measured success by subscriber counts and tower deployments. He emphasized that connecting communities is only the first step; the true metric of success is the value citizens derive from that connectivity. To illustrate this, he cited a government pilot project in an Abuja community where 1,200 residents previously lacked any telephony access. Once connected, local schools and hospitals moved online, and farmers eliminated middlemen by connecting directly with off-takers, effectively integrating the community into the digital economy. The Minister reiterated the government's commitment to rolling out 4,000 telecom towers nationwide, with 80% targeted at Northern Nigeria, where the connectivity gap is widest. He urged the board to evaluate "lives improved" rather than simply "projects delivered."

For a government focused on socio-economic impact, there is a clear need for partners who can demonstrate that connectivity translates into tangible economic activity. This presents a strategic opportunity for ntel to position itself as a key partner while maintaining its profit motives. Potential avenues include pursuing digital onboarding arrangements with the NYSC and making ntel's extensive land portfolio available to the government for tower construction.

Additionally, ntel could explore a model where the government funds the build-out while ntel acts as the operator, providing managed services in these underserved areas. As Project Titan is being positioned to be operationally efficient, ntel can pursue the operating mandate for government-funded sites, allowing the USPF to bear construction costs while ntel generates revenue from managing and monetizing the infrastructure. This can especially be beneficial in such regions where the returns on deploying capital to build sites render such endeavours commercially unviable.

NCC UNVEILS TELECOMS IDENTITY RISK PLATFORM TO TACKLE FRAUD, BOOST DIGITAL TRUST

There is a problem lingering in the Nigerian digital economy that costs Nigerians money every day and reduces trust in the digital ecosystem. When SIM cards are recycled and reassigned to a new subscriber without proper checks, the previous owner's financial accounts, authentication codes, and digital identities can suddenly become accessible to a stranger. When a number linked to a bank account or other sensitive information is quietly handed over to someone else, the consequences can range from frozen accounts to outright fraud. Consequently, the NCC has initiated the Telecoms Identity Risk Management System (TIRMS) to provide a uniform approach to managing risks related to the integrity and utilization of registered mobile numbers.

The platform connects telecom operators with financial institutions, security agencies, and regulators including the CBN, NIMC, CAC, SEC, and PENCOM. This allows service providers across sectors to verify whether a mobile number has been flagged for dormancy, suspicious activity, or fraud before granting access to sensitive services.

For ntel, this development is significant. Operating as either a roaming MNO or an MVNE, ntel will handle large volumes of subscriber identity data; therefore, integration with TIRMS is crucial. Failing to be compliant from day one could have regulatory and reputational consequences. Furthermore, any development that improves transparency and integration within the sector is beneficial for ntel. Beyond compliance, ntel should build its services to prioritize digital trust, ensuring that billing disputes and SIM-related fraud complaints are minimized. This addresses a key pain point customers have with legacy MNOs.

This type of service-quality differentiation is essential to set ntel apart from its larger, more price-dominant competitors.

IFC INVESTS \$45M TO GREEN AFRICAN TELECOM SITES

Over the last few weeks, Nigeria has faced escalating power supply issues underpinned by gas supply challenges. As this issue has led to frustration amongst the populace, it has also impacted businesses negatively; these power disruptions not only cause increased operating costs as they must generate their own electricity, but they often also affect the quality of the service provided. This issue is further exacerbated by rising energy costs as oil prices skyrocket around the world due to geopolitical tensions. This problem, however, is not unique to Nigeria and does not exclude the telecommunications sector.

The International Finance Corporation this week announced a \$45 million investment in IPT PowerTech, a telecom energy services company, to expand clean and reliable power for telecom networks in Ethiopia, Liberia, and Sierra Leone, where limited power supply continues to slow digital connectivity. The investment will be used to modernize and maintain 2,235 telecom tower sites, more than 90 percent of which are in remote areas where grid connectivity is either weak or completely unavailable. IFC estimates that optimizing the energy mix could reduce power costs for operators by up to 30 percent in Liberia, 26 percent in Sierra Leone, and 52 percent in Ethiopia.

For Project Titan, this deal is both a proof of concept and a direct funding template that Project Titan can emulate. This IFC investment in IPT PowerTech is exactly the kind of financing structure that Project Titan should be actively pursuing. Project Titan specifically presents a compelling case for a similar arrangement. It is operating within Africa's largest telecoms market—a market undergoing an energy cost crisis that saw operators collectively spend tens of billions of naira on diesel in 2025 alone. As ntel continues to build out the project, it would prove very beneficial for us to work towards attracting funding from such partners to improve the financial viability and sustainability of the project, as traditional energy sources prove toxic to the environment as well as the company's financial statements.