



NTRC's i² COMPETITION
IDEAS & INNOVATIONS

PRELIMINARY JUDGING DATES

 TERTIARY SCHOOLS NIS TRAINING ROOM THU NOV 24, 2016	 SECONDARY SCHOOLS NIS CONFERENCE ROOM WED DEC 14, 2016	 UNION ISLAND UNION IS. SEC. SCHOOL THU DEC 15, 2016
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NTRC's I Squared Competition moves into Preliminary Judging Phase

The 2017 NTRC's Ideas and Innovations Competition (i² Competition) has now advanced into the preliminary judging stage. The preliminary judging begins on November 24th and will end on December 15, 2016. During the preliminaries, participants will present a detailed description of their idea or mobile application to a panel of judges consisting of key personnel in the private sector of St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

The tertiary schools will have their preliminaries on November 24th at the NIS Conference room followed by the secondary schools located on mainland St. Vincent on December 14th at the NIS Conference Room. Preliminaries for groups in the southern Grenadine Island of Union Island would be held on December 15, 2016 at the Union Island Secondary School.

Based on the judging of the preliminaries, the top three (3) ranking teams will advance to the finals scheduled for January 2017.

Finalists in the Mobile Application category will be expected to showcase a working prototype or model of their mobile application from the preliminary round. On the other hand the finalists in the Ideas category would be expected to present to the panel of judges what applications / apparatuses or other outcomes may result from their ideas. Students would have a maximum of seven (7) minutes to present and a five (5) minute period for questioning by the panel of judges.

Participants can receive up to EC\$3,500 in cash prizes and other gifts from partners in the competition. The partners for the 2017 i² Competition are St. Vincent Brewery Ltd, Courts, Massy Stores Supermarket, St. Vincent and the Grenadines Broadcasting Corporation, The Searchlight Newspaper, National Insurance Services (NIS), Center for Enterprise Development (CED), National Broadcasting Corporation, Fanfare Events, King Computer Corporation and Right Stuff.

Source: NTRC

Wi-Fi Security & Safety Tips

With many locations having free access to public Wi-Fi, it's a convenient way to check your emails, catch up on social networking, or surf the web when you're out and about. However, cybercriminals will often spy on public Wi-Fi networks and intercept data that is transferred across the link. In this way, the criminal can access users' banking credentials, account passwords, and other valuable information.

Here are some tips to protect yourself on Public Wifi networks.

Be aware Public Wi-Fi is inherently insecure – so be cautious.

Remember – any device could be at risk Laptops, smartphones, and tablets are all susceptible to the wireless security risks.

Treat all Wi-Fi links with suspicion Don't just assume that the Wi-Fi link is legitimate. It could be a bogus link that has been set up by a cybercriminal that's trying to capture valuable, personal information from unsuspecting users. Question everything – and don't connect to an unknown or unrecognized wireless access point.

Consider using your cell phone network

If you need to access any websites that store or require the input of any sensitive information – including social networking, online shopping, and online banking sites – it may be worthwhile accessing them via your cell phone network, instead of the public Wi-Fi connection.

[Kearnsky](#)



NTRC to hand over computers to various local organisations throughout SVG.

The National Telecommunications Regulatory Commission (NTRC) will be hosting a ceremony to officially hand over computers to various organisations throughout St. Vincent and the Grenadines. These Computers were provided by the International Telecommunications Union (ITU).

The handing over ceremony will take place on Tuesday December 6, 2016 at 11:00am at the National Insurance Services Training Room on the first floor of the NIS Building located on Upper Bay Street, Kingstown

Source: NTRC



NTRC Grenada welcomes new member to GREX.

The National Telecommunications Regulatory Commission (NTRC) Grenada welcomes a new member at the Grenada Internet Exchange Point (GREX). On October 14th, 2016, Digicel became a valid peering member at the exchange point. With the inclusion of Digicel to its membership, the number of providers now connected at the IXP jumps to four, with prior membership from LIME, FLOW and Aislecom.

This marks an important milestone in the lifecycle of the Internet Exchange Point as it represents and reinforces the commitment of the National Telecommunications Regulatory Commission and the providers towards the continued development of the IXP. As more providers join at the Grenada Internet Exchange Point, the goal of realising more visible benefit for the Internet community of Grenada draws closer to becoming a reality.

Source: [NTRC Grenada](#)

CWC revenues down, customer base up in 2nd Quarter 2016 for the Caribbean and Central America



Telecommunications company Cable & Wireless Communications (CWC)

experienced a drop in revenues and the addition of 9,000 organic revenue generating units (RGUs) in the second quarter of this year.

In the preliminary results for the six months ending September 30, the company reported year-to-date revenues of US\$1.14bn, a 2% year-on-year drop on a rebased basis. CWC explained that 10% growth in Jamaica offset declines in other markets resulting from competitive and macroeconomic factors, as well as lower managed services revenue.

Adjusted Earnings Before Interest, Taxes, Depreciation and Amortization (EBITDA) was up 1.5% year-on-year, reaching US\$411mn. EBITDA rose 4% sequentially, or US\$9mn, from 1Q16/17 to 2Q16/17, reflecting a margin improvement of 200 basis points.

CWC made a net loss of US\$18m in the quarter and US\$124m year-to-date. Property, equipment and intangible asset additions declined to 17% of revenue in 2Q16/17 from 25% in the same period of last year.

The telco explained that its BTC (Telecommunications company in Bahamas) brand suffered significant infrastructure damage and business interruption in the Bahamas due to Hurricane Matthew in early October. Total repair costs were estimated at US\$35-45m. However, CWC grew its mobile customer base for the Bahamas by 4,000 or 1%.

In the mobile segment, which represents 40% of total revenue, postpaid subscriber growth was offset by a decline in the prepaid customer base, mainly due to the impact of competitive offers in Panama.

CWC's video, internet, and telephony businesses saw the addition of 9,000 organic revenue generating units (RGUs) during the quarter. In the case of broadband the telco added 7,000 organic subscribers with 5,000 RGU additions in Jamaica and 2,000 RGU additions in Trinidad & Tobago.

Regarding the video segment, CWC added 1,000 RGUs in the quarter. This was driven by the Direct to Home (DTH) business in Panama. The increased RGUs from the DTH business were largely offset by declines in video RGUs in Barbados and Trinidad & Tobago as a result of increased competition.

Liberty Global completed the US\$7.6bn acquisition of CWC in May of this year.

Source: [CANTO](#)

Nominet and Microsoft collaborate on TV white space broadband project for Africa

Nominet and Microsoft have announced a partnership to deliver broadband across the African continent, using Nominet's TV white space database and dynamic spectrum management technology, along with Microsoft's Azure cloud platform, to bring low-cost terrestrial wireless broadband internet to remote and rural communities.

TV white space (TVWS) is the part of the radio spectrum occupied by unassigned or unused UHF and VHF broadcast frequencies, largely unused in many countries since analogue television services started going off air, replaced by digital services. The available set of TVWS frequencies varies from territory to territory, so Nominet developed a geolocation database to tell devices which frequencies they can use in a given area, at what power and for how long.

Radio spectrum supports the majority of internet connections, but it is a finite resource and with the anticipated explosion of wireless broadband services and billions of devices connected to the Internet of Things, effective management of the spectrum will become crucial.

Speaking to Engineering & Technology (E&T) at the launch event, part of Nominet's Internet of Things showcase, Adam Leach, head of R&D at Nominet, said, "As a business, we've been looking at the challenges of IoT. We're looking at the four main areas where we see challenges: interoperability, security, privacy and connectivity.

"In connectivity, what we've been looking at is how dynamic spectrum can be used, how you can allocate spectrum more efficiently to stop the mass of wireless devices causing a spectrum crunch if we get that projected 60 billion devices all connecting to the internet. You've got a tripling of internet traffic and the majority of that being wireless, you've got this pressure on our wireless spectrum that needs to be addressed. We believe that geolocation technologies can be a good way to do that spectrum management.

Source: [E&T](#)

Fixed wireless broadband and the 28 GHz spectrum band are driving initial 5G moves

Momentum is definitely on the side of "5G" technology, with most large mobile telecom operators either having already announced plans to begin trials of what they expect to be a technology standard or in the planning stages for such trials.

Among the early domestic movers, two trends have emerged in terms of plans for commercial trials: fixed wireless broadband will be the service, and the 28 GHz spectrum band will be the wavelength of choice. AT&T, Verizon Wireless, T-Mobile US, U.S. Cellular and C Spire have all announced plans to trial 5G services using the nonconventional spectrum band.

However, despite the broad support, the business case for such moves remains in limbo.

Research firm Mobile Experts recently released a case study on broadband-based 5G services focused on return on investment for deployments, noting current technology tied to the limited propagation characteristics of the 28 GHz band come up short in terms of supporting a business case.

The firm said it calculated the potential ROI for operators investing in a pre-5G network using the 28 GHz band compared with LTE costs and "the potential costs for a sub-6 GHz network using 5G technology," and found at "historical prices, 5G will not be successful." To reach the necessary ROI, Mobile Experts said the market would need inexpensive access to large spectrum blocks.

"The business case for 5G fixed broadband is not a slam dunk," said Joe Madden, principal analyst at Mobile Experts. "We expect pre-5G deployment to be a very targeted investment by mobile operators, addressing very specific neighborhoods instead of nationwide deployment."

Madden noted millimeter wave links at 50 meters created a "challenge to the business case, because the number of customers served by each radio will be too small." The firm noted links of at least 200 meters would be required to reach enough users to support sufficient ROI.

Source: [RCR Wireless](#)



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