

22 Teams advance to Finals of Ideas & Innovation Competition



A total of 22 teams have now advanced to the finals of the Fifth Annual NTRC's Ideas and Innovation Competition which is scheduled to take place on November 15, 2017. The preliminary events took place on October 10th and 12th for the secondary school presentations, and on October 11th for the Open Category of the competition. The teams were required to present their ideas or mobile apps to a panel of judges for no more than 7 minutes followed by a 5 minute round of questioning.

The judging resulted in 10 secondary idea teams, 6 secondary mobile app teams and 6 open category teams advancing to the finals. The competition which was previously only opened to students enrolled in secondary and tertiary institutions now includes an open category for Vincentians under 35 years. The competition's finalists can be found on the [NTRC's website](#) and [Facebook](#) page.

Source: [NTRC](#)

Wi-fi security flaw 'puts devices at risk of hacks'

The wi-fi connections of businesses and homes around the world are at risk, according to researchers who have revealed a major flaw dubbed Krack.

It concerns an authentication system which is widely used to secure wireless connections.

Experts said it could leave "the majority" of connections at risk until they are patched via updates.

A Google spokesperson said: "We're aware of the issue, and we will be patching any affected devices in the coming weeks."

While updates are yet to be released, there are some measures users can take to protect their online privacy. A Virtual Private Network (VPN) software could protect them, as it will encrypt all traffic. Only using HTTPS encrypted websites should also benefit the user, though there are exploits that can remove those protections. Changing the Wi-Fi password won't prevent attacks, but it's advisable once the router has been updated.

NTRC
i² COMPETITION

Win up to \$5,000 in Prizes

GRAND FINALE & PRIZE GIVING CEREMONY
WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 15, 2017 | 9:30 AM
AT THE METHODIST CHURCH HALL

VOICE
your opinion!

NTRC
TOWN HALL MEETING

WEDNESDAY | OCT 18, 2017

FITZ HUGHES PRIMARY SCHOOL

🕒 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Express your views on the Telecommunications services provided by Columbus Communications, Cable & Wireless and Digicel.

There will also be a presentation on the Cybercrime Act 2016.

NTRC to host Town Hall Meeting in Fitz Hughes

The National Telecommunications Regulatory Commission (NTRC) will be hosting a town hall meeting to gather feedback from the residents of Fitz Hughes and surrounding areas with respect to the telecommunications services being provided by Digicel and Flow. Additionally, residents will be informed about the recently passed Cybercrime Act of 2016 at this meeting.

The event includes presentations from senior officials of the NTRC and the Royal St. Vincent and the Grenadines Police Force. The presentation will then be followed by a full question and answer session.

The Town Hall Meeting is scheduled to place on Wednesday October 18, 2017 at 7:00pm at the Fitz Hughes Government School. This event will also be streamed live on the NTRC's Facebook page (NTRC SVG).

Source: NTRC

NTRC (Grenada) invites bids for Secured Wired/Wireless Mesh Network to Schools



The National Telecommunications Regulatory Commission (NTRC), Grenada, in accordance with the Telecommunications (Universal Service Fund) Regulations SRO 21 of 2009 is inviting sealed bids from licensed telecommunication

providers, to establish a secure Wired/Wireless Mesh network to facilitate access to broadband internet services to all schools in Grenada. The NTRC plans to use funds from their Universal Service Fund Contributions towards the cost of the "Universal Service Fund Project".

The Request for Proposal (RFP) is issued by the NTRC as part of a strategy aimed at increasing access to telecommunications network and services in Grenada, with emphasis on the development of the unserved, underserved and maritime areas, as well as institutions serving the public's needs.

Bidding will be conducted through competitive bidding procedures in a manner consistent with fair competitive, international best practices and existing sector policies such as the Universal Service Fund Regulations and Guidelines.

Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information at offices of the National Telecommunications Regulatory Commission Grenada Monday to Friday from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. Interested eligible bidders must register with the NTRC by providing the names, designations and contact information of their representatives who should be contacted on matters relating to these documents. To receive the Request For Proposals the bidders must forward their request via email to biddingntrc@ectel.int.

All bids must be delivered to the NTRC by 10:00 am on **December 6th, 2017**. Late bids will be rejected.

Source: NTRC Grenada



CTU holds Youth ICT Day at Internet Week Guyana

Around the world, digital natives integrate technology into their lives seamlessly, often in ways that are counterintuitive to other generations.

But in the Caribbean, governments are discovering ways to bridge that digital divide, through strategic partnerships with organisations like the Caribbean Telecommunications Union (CTU) and the Caribbean Network Operators Group (CaribNOG).

The government of Guyana recently held an Internet Week (October 9—13, 2017), coordinated by the CTU and CaribNOG, alongside several international Internet bodies including the Internet Society, the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) and the Latin America and the Caribbean Internet Addresses Registry (LACNIC).

Catherine Hughes, Guyana's Minister of Public Telecommunications, closed the five-day event with a two-hour town hall meeting with students. More than 300 from secondary schools around the country took



part in the all-day event.

The global importance of cyber safety translated into

personal terms by Michelle Garcia, Communications Specialist with the Caribbean Telecommunications Union, who spoke frankly about how to handle some of the very real dangers lurking around heavily frequented websites and popular social apps. Complementing Garcia's message, Lydia Moise (CTU) told the young people that the power is in their hands to make the best use of the available technology.

The success of the day was most evident not just in the formal agenda but in its aftermath. Long after the formal close, students lingered in the hall, accosting various panelists with follow-up inquiries, taking selfies with the smiling Minister, and even introducing themselves to some of the international experts on hand to field their questions.

The Youth Day was the virtual exclamation at the end of a memorable Internet Week Guyana.

Source: [CTU](#)

FLOW launches new LTE Service in St. Kitts and Nevis



BASSETERRE, St. Kitts – ST. KITTS AND NEVIS joined the rest of the world with its upgraded mobile internet system, when

telecommunications giant FLOW launched the country's first LTE Service. The Long-Term Evolution (LTE) service is an upgrade over the 4g service that Flow has provided for many years.

At a simple but significant ceremony at Happy End in Nevis on September 29, 2017, the company's representatives explained that they have only rolled out the service in selected areas of the islands, but declared that the entire Federation would be covered in phases.

Customers can access the service in Basseterre, St. Peter's and Bird Rock in St. Kitts, while those on Nevis can access it in Charlestown. Customers with upgraded hand-held devices bought this year, and those with sim cards recently distributed are likely see the changes.

According to General Manager David Lake, the company has invested millions of dollars to develop the new LTE network, and more has been earmarked to "ensure our Federation is equipped with one of the best LTE networks in the entire Caribbean."

"4G LTE is to mobile connectivity what broadband internet was to dial up," Lake said. "It would give our customers a mobile data experience. It would be as if you are connected to a fixed broadband line with download speeds approaching of 50 megs and upload speeds over 10 megs. In other words, it would be as if your smart phone or tablet was at home with dedicated broadband connections – but you are on the go".

Despite the system only being rolled out in certain areas, concerns were raised over consistent connectivity in high traffic areas. Technicians at the telecommunications company, however, have stated that they have taken that into consideration and the system could handle the load - similar to the resilience shown during Hurricanes Irma and Maria.

Source: [SKN Vibes](#)

Google opens Cloud Platform regions in Germany and Brazil, its first in South America



Google has officially added two new regions to its Cloud Platform infrastructure business with the opening of the Southamerica-East1 and Europe-West3 data

centers in Brazil and Germany, respectively.

The internet giant previously revealed plans to launch a bunch of new Google Cloud Platform (GCP) regions throughout 2017. Following the opening last November of Google's sixth region, in Tokyo, the company has opened regions in London, Sydney, Singapore, and Northern Virginia. We had also known that São Paulo (Brazil) and Frankfurt (Germany) were coming at some point. Google is planning to open additional European GCP regions in the Netherlands and Finland shortly.

The Frankfurt region is Google's third in Europe — after London (U.K.) and Brussels (Belgium) — and the company said European companies situated east of Frankfurt should notice speedier app performance due to their proximity to the new region.

"Hosting applications in Europe-West3 can improve latency by up to 50 percent for end users in Germany, Switzerland, Austria, and eastern Europe, compared to hosting them in Belgium," the company said in a blog post.

Source: [VentureBeat](#)

Government announces the creation of a 5G working group which will include officials and industry players

The government of Australia has developed a paper outlining a 5G policy for the country, including the establishment of a working group to drive the deployment of 5G mobile technology in Australia.

The government said this working group will support the timely rollout of 5G technology in the country with the primary goal of fostering the growth of the digital economy. The commercial rollout of next generation mobile networks is expected to start in 2020. The government highlighted that it will support 5G deployments by making spectrum available in a timely manner, actively engaging in international standardization processes and streamlining planning arrangements to allow mobile operators to deploy infrastructure more quickly and at lower cost.

The Department of Communications plans to establish a working group that will bring together representatives from across government and industry. The government said that this working group will provide a platform for an ongoing strategic dialogue on 5G, and will work to ensure that sectoral regulatory frameworks are updated to take advantage of this technology.

The government also said Australian telecoms regulator ACMA will continue to work on making spectrum available for 5G. The regulator has been investigating the use of 1.5 GHz and 3.6 GHz bands as well as high frequency mmWave bands in for mobile broadband services. The regulator has decided to prioritize re-farming of the 3.6 GHz band over the 1.5 GHz band

Source: [RCR Wireless](#)



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