

## NTRC LAUNCHES 2018 IDEAS & INNOVATION (i<sup>2</sup>) COMPETITION

The National Telecommunications Regulatory Commission (NTRC) on September 6, 2018 held the launch



Mr. Apollo Knights—Director, NTRC

of the NTRC's 2018 i<sup>2</sup> Competition. The launch took place at the NTRC's conference room and was broadcasted live via the NTRC's Facebook page (NTRC SVG).

The NTRC's Director, Mr. Apollo Knights in his remarks indicated that this is the first year that the launch is being streamed live from the NTRC's conference room. In the past, the launch was mostly held at the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Community College, Glen Campus which meant that only persons who were attending the launch in person were eligible to win prizes that are normally given away at the launch. He explained that with this year's

launch on Facebook live, anyone viewing the launch would be eligible to win a brand new Samsung Galaxy S9+ smartphone compliments Flow.

Also speaking at the launch was NTRC's Consumer and Public Relations Manager, Miss Keisha Gurley who gave the competition overview. In her overview, Miss Gurley explained that one of the objectives of the i<sup>2</sup> competition is to develop the entrepreneurial skills of



Ms. Keisha Gurley—CPR Manager, NTRC

the younger generation by having them look at the needs in our society and proposing ICT solutions for them. She added that participants can use this competition as a stepping stone for the development of the next big mobile app or idea.

The launch marked the start of the registration period of the competition which ends on September 27, 2018. Persons interested in entering can do so by visiting our website: <http://www.ntrc.vc/general/ntrcs-i-squared-competition/> or downloading the "NTRCs I Squared App" from the Google Play Store.

Participants of the competition are eligible to win up to EC\$5,000 in prizes at the grand finale to held on November 14, 2018.

Source: [NTRC](#)

## Tips for buying the right phone

With excellent new flagships from Apple, Google and Samsung all vying for your attention, plus dozens of high-quality options for those on a budget, choosing the right smartphone has never been more challenging. Here are some tips to help you to select the best phone for you.

### iOS is easier to use; Android gives you more choice.

If you're torn between iOS and Android, opt for an iPhone if you want something that's easy to use and gets both the hottest apps first and the timeliest software updates. Android is better if you want more hardware choices and more affordable options.

### For the phone's display; color, quality and brightness are more important than resolution.

A 4K screen on a phone is nice to have but is an overkill. Pay more attention to how bright the display is, so it will be easy to see outdoors, and how colorful the panel is (AMOLED panels are better than LCD in this regard). The very latest phones offer high dynamic range (HDR) for displaying even more colors.

### Ignore camera megapixels.

Along with battery life, the camera has become the most important smartphone feature. Pay attention to specs such as aperture (lower numbers are better) and special features such as dual lenses and optical image stabilization.

Source: [Tom's Guide](#)

## Romeyn Gibson wins Samsung Galaxy S9+



Romeyn Gibson (right) receives Samsung Galaxy S9+ from Nolisha Miller of Flow

Mr. Romeyn Gibson is now the owner of a brand new Samsung Galaxy S9+ smartphone having attended the launch of the NTRC's 2018 I Squared Competition on Facebook Live on September 6, 2018.

Persons viewing the launch were advised to listen to the presentation from Miss Keisha Gurley carefully noting that they could win a Samsung Galaxy S9+ compliments Flow if they were the first to answer a question correctly.

Mr. Gibson was the first person to answer a question correctly following the presentations during the launch. The giveaway was audited by Ms. Kayona John of the auditing firm, KDLT.

Source: [NTRC](#)

## Taiwan ICT experts visit SVG



DIRECTOR Tsu-Wei Kao and Senior Engineer Yu-Che Huang held training courses for Vincential officials.

Two Taiwanese ICT experts, Director Tsu-Wei Kao and Senior Engineer Yu-Che Huang of the 'Institute for Information Industry' in Taiwan, visited St Vincent and Grenadines (SVG) from July 26 to August 23, 2018, to complete the installation, testing and training of the Electronic Document and Records Management System (EDRMS) of the Government of the St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

In 2016, the Governments of the Republic of China (Taiwan) and St Vincent and the Grenadines signed an agreement to launch the project of EDRMS. It aims to develop mechanisms and IT infrastructure to improve the efficiency of processing information among different ministries of the Government of SVG.

David Fu, the Project Manager of the EDRMS dispatched by the Taiwan-ICDF, said that after a two year effort, with the full support of the Information Technology Services Division of the Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning, Sustainable

Development and Information Technology, the electronic document (e-document) system and e-archiving system within seven different ministries of SVG have been initially installed.

Fu added that Kao and Huang's visit is part of the EDRMS project. They not only assisted in setting up and testing the systems, but also provided the 69-hour training courses to more than 400 governmental officials who will be the users of the EDRMS later this year.

Fu indicated that the project of EDRMS between Taiwan and SVG is a comprehensive plan for SVG. Apart from the installation of e-document and e-archiving systems, the EDRMS project also established the Public Key Infrastructure (PKI) to secure the system.

Most importantly, Fu emphasized that capacity building is the core component of the EDRMS project. To date, more than 30 Taiwanese ICT experts visited SVG to hold a total of 45 training programs and 70 workshops for more than 1,200 staff members from different ministries of SVG.

Fu said that the EDRMS is scheduled to be completed and handed over to the Government of SVG at the end of 2018. Fu expressed his gratitude for the assistance and support provided by the excellent staff of Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning, Sustainable Development and Information Technology, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Commerce, Service Commission Department, Treasury, Inland Revenue, Customs and Excise, and the Information Technology Services Division.

"Without them, the EDRMS project could not be implemented," Fu stressed.

Source: [Searchlight](#)



The Government of St. Kitts and Nevis  
and  
Caribbean Telecommunications Union  
present  
**ICT Week - St. Kitts and Nevis**



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## Government of St. Kitts & Nevis to host ICT Week

The Government of the Federation of St. Kitts & Nevis, in collaboration with the Caribbean Telecommunications Union (CTU), is hosting ICT Week – St. Kitts & Nevis from September 24–26, 2018. Permanent Secretaries and Chief Technical Officers of Ministries responsible for ICT, Regulators, executives from the private sector and senior stakeholders from the Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) sector, from across the region, are expected to attend the week's activities.

The week will also include the 17th Caribbean Ministerial Strategic ICT Seminar (CMSIS17) from 26th to 27th September 2018. The theme of the Seminar is 21st Century Government – Enhancing Connections... Accelerating Progress.

This seminar seeks to build on the momentum established at the Summit for Heads of Government and the Symposium held in January 2018 in Antigua. At those events the Heads of Government present generally

agreed that the region should work towards the achievement of 21st Century Government and to accelerate the establishment of a Single ICT Space in the region. In his address to the Summit, Prime Minister Mitchell, CARICOM Head of Government with lead responsibility for ICT, eloquently delivered the message that now is a time for action as the region has been talking far too long and has not achieved these objectives.

The seminar will also continue the CTU's focus on the promotion of 21st Century Government: citizen-centric, seamless Governments that use ICT to enhance their effectiveness, efficiency and transparency in the delivery of services to their citizens. With the sub-theme "Enhancing Connections ... Accelerating Progress", the Seminar will explore current and emerging technologies that will increase connections among and within stakeholder groups in order to accelerate progress towards 21st Century Government and the ultimate goal of ICT-enabled Caribbean development.

Source: [CTU](#)

## Digicel selected to rebuild telecoms, ICT services in Dominica

The Government of the Commonwealth of Dominica – and by extension the people of Dominica - are poised for a major technology transformation with the news that ICT managed services provider, Digicel, has officially been selected as the winning bidder to provide the rebuild of the Telecommunications and ICT services to the country.

With the competitive bid process complete, Digicel has been selected as the strategic provider of telecommunications and ICT services to the Government of the Commonwealth of Dominica for a 15 year term. The awarding of this contract to Digicel comes upon approval from Cabinet after accepting the

recommendation of the Bid Evaluation Committee.

As Dominica works to recover from the devastating effects of Hurricane Maria in September last year and focuses its renewal efforts on becoming a world leading climate resilient nation, this landmark agreement sees Digicel working in close partnership with the Government to deliver a highly resilient, state of the art network infrastructure, at a standard never seen before in the region.

Digicel will undertake the rebuilding and provisioning of telecommunications, internet, data, cloud and other ICT services to all of the Government sites - including every Government office, school, community centre and health centre, across the length and breadth of the island.

Source: [Loop Jamaica](#) via [ICT Pulse](#)

## Apple's new iPhones draw industry buzz on spectrum, feature support



Apple's September 2018 release of its latest iPhone models — the Xs, Xs Max and XR — immediately drew attention to which network features and spectrum that the company's newest devices will support. Those include gigabit-LTE capability through License Assisted Access and four-by-four multiple-input multiple-

output on the Xs and Xs Max — but not on the XR, the least expensive of the three new models at US\$749.

The devices drew immediate raves from T-Mobile US executives, including CEO John Legere, since they will be the first iPhone models with support for T-Mobile's 600 MHz spectrum. The carrier has ambitious build-out plans for that spectrum that are already underway.

AT&T-FirstNet's Band 14 spectrum is also supported on the new iPhone models, expanding the number of FirstNet-ready devices that can make use of AT&T's Band 14 build-out. The carrier said recently that it has about 2,500 agencies as FirstNet customers and that Band 14 spectrum has been turned on at more than 2,500 sites across the country, with the process to build out at least 10,000 more sites "underway."

In addition to 4x4 MIMO in the Xs and Xs Max models, all three of the new models include support for 802.11ac Wi-Fi with 2x2 MIMO, as well as Bluetooth 5.0.

All three devices also have dual SIM capabilities, with both embedded SIM and a nano-SIM supported. Apple noted that the phones are not compatible with existing micro-SIM cards. eSIM is the GSMA's technology developed to replace traditional, removable SIM cards with an embedded SIM module that supports the profiles of multiple operators, so that consumers can switch between operators without needing new, physical SIM cards — or in this case, the eSIM enables more flexible device use such as having two phone numbers supported on one device, according to Apple.

Source: [RCR Wireless](#)

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## US carriers introduce Project Verify to replace individual app passwords

Four major US carriers — AT&T, Sprint, T-Mobile, and Verizon — are joining forces to launch a single sign-on service for smartphones. The service, called Project Verify, authenticates app logins so that users don't need to memorize passwords for all their apps. The companies say their solution verifies users through their phone number, phone account type, SIM card details, IP

address, and account tenure. Essentially, your phone serves as the verification method with details that are hard to spoof. Single sign-on services are clearly convenient; fewer passwords is a great thing. They're also an alternative to installing a password manager on your phone, which would still require you to remember the password to the app. Still, if someone compromises your one account (or device in this case), everything else will follow, so it could introduce some security liabilities.

Source: [The Verge](#)



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