Airtel selects Ericsson to modernize its 4G network in Kenya

• New deal to enable Airtel to offer elevated user experience, step-up network performance and take the mobile experience to a new level
• Ericsson Radio System solutions to provide 4G coverage while driving enhanced use cases for consumers and the enterprises
• Ericsson to deploy Kathrein Mobile Communication antenna solutions to further strengthen Airtel's network

Airtel Africa is expanding its strategic partnership with Ericsson (NASDAQ: ERIC) to enable 4G coverage in Kenya. With Ericsson’s Radio Access Network (RAN) and packet core products for 4G, Airtel subscribers will experience enhanced quality of voice and data.

The network modernization deal, signed in August 2020, is in line with the Kenyan Digital Economy Blueprint Vision 2030 which aims to provide robust connectivity in rural areas and facilitate e-commerce platforms. The modernization deal will drive the simplification and upgrade of the existing network while future-proofing it for the anticipated and rapid mobile expansion in the country.

With Ericsson Radio System and Packet Core solutions, Airtel Kenya's network will have 4G coverage, while driving enhanced use cases in both the consumer and the enterprise segments. Ericsson technology will also make the network in Kenya ready for 5G deployment.

Prasanta Das Sarma, CEO at Airtel Kenya says: “Robust and secure communications are an essential component of a digital society in Kenya. We are firmly anchored to the strategy of delivering reliable connections across the country and are looking forward to expanding the high-quality mobile broadband services to our subscribers.”

Fadi Pharaon, President of Ericsson Middle East and Africa, says: “Together with Airtel, we will implement this project that aims to establish an advanced LTE network in Kenya, providing Airtel’s customers an enriched experience — both in the consumer and business segments. Through this partnership, we reaffirm our ambition to set ‘Africa in motion’ by partnering with Airtel to grow and support an increasingly digitalized society in Kenya.”

As part of this project, Ericsson will deploy its Kathrein Mobile Communication Antenna portfolio which will help provide additional enhancement to the network’s robustness. The technologically advanced network management system, Ericsson Network Manager, will be utilized to support Airtel in seamlessly managing the network by integrating various network elements into a single platform.

NOTES TO EDITORS:

Ericsson Radio System (portfolio)
Ericsson Network Manager

Kathrein Mobile Communication Antenna

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