

OPERATING MANDATE

Following the report of the Presidential Committee on the Harmonization of Government's IT Infrastructure Assets and the subsequent creation of Galaxy Backbone Plc, an operating mandate developed from the mandates of similar organizations operating in other countries was approved by the Government to guide the business philosophy of the company.

The operating mandate sets out the followings:

Connectivity Infrastructure

- (1) Galaxy Backbone Plc will be responsible for all Wide Area Networks (WANs) and Metropolitan Area Networks (MANs) connecting government entities. However, government entities will continue to be responsible for build out and maintenance of Local Area Networks (LANs) and distribution networks within their buildings. In other words, the company will provide a "live node" to each building structure and the necessary security and firewall infrastructure as a pre-requisite to inclusion of a building onto the National Information and Communications Infrastructure Backbone (NICTIB) network. The only exception to this rule will be the Federal Secretariat complexes that provide accommodation to several MDAs and therefore require centralized infrastructure management that will be provided by Galaxy Backbone Plc.
- (2) All existing connectivity assets within government entities will need to be transferred to Galaxy Backbone Plc. This will include assets such as VSAT's (indoor and outdoor equipment), Radio equipment (licensed and unlicensed bands), Fiber optic links, etc. This does not include assets such as network switches, internal cabling, wireless access points etc. The assets transfer will be a phased process that will ensure that there is minimal disruption to the operations of the transferring entity.
- (3) Galaxy Backbone Plc is in the process of consolidating existing connectivity as well as building out complementary

infrastructure. However, the consolidation process will be phased and be carried out over a period of time. Therefore the current and imminent connectivity needs across Government must be accommodated. However, there will always be “outlier” locations that may not fall within the short/medium term connectivity strategy. In order to accommodate them, such “Outer” MDAs must:

- Request connectivity from Galaxy Backbone Plc and may only proceed to acquire its own assets if Galaxy’s rollout is unable to accommodate the requirements of the requesting entity within the same timeframe that it would take the entity to acquire the connectivity assets directly.
- Buy connectivity assets such as VSAT’s, radio equipment, Fiber optic links through Galaxy approved vendors and based on Galaxy approved standards and pricing.
- Bandwidth is NOT to be purchased by Federal Government entities. It will be provided by Galaxy through bulk bandwidth/space segment agreements

(4) Satellite Based Bandwidth:

- NIGCOMSAT Limited shall be the preferred provider of satellite bandwidth to Government MDAs and Galaxy Backbone Plc shall be the sole procuring entity acting on behalf of all Government MDAs.
 1. In the event that bandwidth is required through other satellite operators Galaxy Backbone Plc will be the proxy through which the Federal Government negotiates bulk agreements through a competitive bidding process. Satellite bandwidth will no longer be an approvable capital or recurring cost within the budget appropriation of an individual Federal Government entity.

(5) SAT₃ Bandwidth: Galaxy Backbone Plc will be the proxy through which the Federal Government negotiates bandwidth over the SAT₃ infrastructure. SAT₃ bandwidth will no longer be an approvable capital or recurring cost within the budget appropriation of an individual Federal Government entity.

ii. Enterprise Applications including Databases

(a) Galaxy Backbone Plc shall be responsible for deploying and maintaining all transversal applications in Government. Transversal applications are those applications that their usage cuts across and is applicable to all MDAs in Government. Examples of these include government-wide Messaging and Collaboration, National Personnel and Payroll System, Government Gateway and National Portal, etc.

(b) All MDAs may still directly procure and implement enterprise solutions that are specific only to their specific requirements. The cost of these types of projects can be included in their budgets.

Please note that exceptions to this rule are government-wide systems and solutions as described in 1 above.