

WELCOME REMARK BY EXECUTIVE VICE CHAIRMAN (EVC)
AT THE COMMISSIONING OF THE NCC CENTER OF EXCELLENCE,
POWERED BY NOKIA ON THURSDAY 11TH JULY 2025

Protocols,

On behalf of the Nigerian Communications Commission, you are all welcome to the momentous commissioning of the NCC Center of Excellence. As you may recall, just a few months ago, on the 7th of May, 2024, the Commission, led by His Excellency, the Honorable Minister of Communications, Innovation and Digital Economy, Dr. Bosun Tijani, signed a landmark Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Nokia Solutions and Networks Nigeria Ltd. Today, the industry celebrates the fruition of one of the key components of that collaboration – the commissioning of this Center.

I must mention that the signing of this MoU, was achieved through the unwavering support we received from the Honorable Minister who envisioned a center that would be dedicated to empowering young Nigerians with the latest 4G/5G technologies. Today, that vision has become a reality.

It is undeniable that our Honorable Minister has consistently expressed his passion for job creation and for positioning Nigeria as a global talent hub and net exporter of this talent. We have witnessed how this vision has materialized in the successful rollout of the 3 Million Technical Talent (3MTT) program, which, like today's initiative, is a product of strategic partnerships with key stakeholders across the board.

This Center of Excellence draws its inspiration from this passion and aligns with the Knowledge Pillar of the Strategic Vision Plan of the Ministry of Communications, Innovation, and Digital Economy. As stated earlier, its objective is to produce a mass of exportable technical talents in Nigeria while deepening and accelerating our position in global research in key technology areas

The NCC Center of Excellence will serve as training center for the young graduates that hopefully would be absorbed into the Nigerian telecom sector. By equipping these young Nigerians with the skills and knowledge critical to the evolving telecom industry, this collaboration is shaping individual futures while also propelling Nigeria's journey towards a robust digital economy.

In line with the MoU, the Omnia Youth Entrepreneur Program will also provide high-quality training to 200 youths, from the six geo-political zones of our nation. This is in addition to the Technical Training on the 4G/5G technology to prepare them for future careers in the telecom industry.

The commissioning of the NCC Center of Excellence, which stands as a testament to the power of collaboration, marks a new chapter in our collective effort to bridge the digital divide and empower young Nigerians. The commitment of Nokia to establishing this state-of-the-art 5G/4G test lab, equipped with their most advanced technologies, provides an unparalleled learning environment for the advancement of knowledge in the telecoms sector.

The NCC is confident that the knowledge and skills acquired within these walls will translate into groundbreaking innovations, shaping a brighter technological future for Nigeria.

Once again, I extend my gratitude to the Honorable Minister of Communications, Innovation, and Digital Economy, Dr. Bosun Tijani, for his steadfast support and drive in making this a reality. We also express our deep appreciation to Nokia for partnering with us to achieve our vision of a technologically advanced and thriving digital economy in Nigeria.

Thank you.