

Results of the Auction Process For the Award of Three (3) Carriers in the 800 MHz Spectrum Band

Introduction

The Nigerian Communications Commission published a Public Notice on its decision to award three (3) Carriers in the 800 MHz spectrum band through an auction process. The decision of the Commission was based on requests by interested Licensed Network Operators that require the spectrum to meet planned roll out of services. Subsequently, an Information Memorandum was issued, in which Bid Applications for the available spectrum slot were invited.

Response to the Information Memorandum

The Commission is pleased to announce that, by the application deadline of 17:00 hours on 9th July 2007, it received applications from 4 licensed telecommunications companies, viz.

1. GiCell Wireless Limited
2. Multilinks Telecommunications Limited
3. TC Africa Telecoms Network Limited
4. Visafone Communications Limited

The Award Process

The four (4) applications were evaluated based on the pre-qualification criteria outlined in the Information Memorandum. Only one applicant was found to have been fully compliant with the criteria. In consonance with the primary objective of the auction as well as the provisions of the Information Memorandum, which stated that, if there is only one Approved Bidder, the Commission will provisionally award the spectrum to this Bidder at the Reserve Price, the license has been provisionally awarded to the Approved Bidder.

In view of the above, the Commission is pleased to announce that Visafone Communications Limited has been successful in its bid for the 3 Carriers in the 800 MHz spectrum band. The Commission expects to receive payment of the applicable fees, being the Reserve Price of ₦400 million less the Intention-to-Bid Deposit of ₦40 million, within 14 business days of the provisional award.

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