



## **Appointment of Principal Consultant for Digital Mobile Licensing June 26, 2000**

The Board of Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) at its meeting of June 20 - 21, 2000 appointed [Radio Spectrum International](#) Consulting Limited (RSI) of the UK as the Principal Consultant to facilitate the Digital Mobile Licensing auction for Nigeria.

In arriving at the decision the Board considered:-

- The need to proceed quickly to ensure that the licences are issued by December, 2000.
- The proven independence of the consultancy firm which scored very high in our assessment criteria. Some major consultancy firms are known to have
- developed strong alliances with major operating companies and manufacturers.
- The consultancy firm has had recent experience in the handling of a high profile auctioning process
- The proposal presented by RSI and the timetable proposed for the consultancy was acceptable to the Board.

The specific expertise of RSI

- Evaluation of auctions and licensing policy.
- Auction design, documentation and execution.
- Technical expertise relating to radio spectrum issues.
- Design of Internet sites for provision of background information and real-time auction results.

Radio Spectrum International Consulting Limited (RSI) is a joint venture between CMG Plc. one of Europe's leading IT service companies and UK Radiocommunications Agency (RA), responsible for managing the recent successful auction of third generation mobile licenses in the UK.

Radio Spectrum International Consulting Limited (RSI) was introduced to the Commission for consideration by the Government appointed adviser - the Commonwealth Telecommunications Organisation (CTO).

### **Interconnectivity Agreement**

The Commission reviewed the meetings which were held separately with NITEL and the PTOs and resolved to amend the existing Interconnect Agreement to address some of the concerns raised by both parties. The Commission directed that a new agreement should be drawn to take into account:

The need to compensate the PTOs for incoming trunk and international calls

The possibility of NITEL providing additional points of interconnections

The need to allow all operators to interconnect with each other

The new Agreement to be ratified later by the Commission will supercede all previous interconnect agreements, and will be prepared on the basis of dialogue with both parties.

The Commission also resolved to direct all operators including NITEL to discontinue charging subscribers for uncompleted calls with immediate effect.

#### **Licensing of NITEL**

The Commission also directed that the process of preparing appropriate licence for NITEL should be accelerated and concluded soonest.

#### **Call Offices/Telecentres**

The Commission recognised the need to promote universal service and as a first step decided to liberalise the licensing of Telecentres nationwide. The permits will not attract licence fees but applicants will only be required to pay minimum administrative charges as follows:

Rural - =N=5,000.00 annually

Urban - =N=10,000.00 annually