



Miss Keisha Gurley, Consumer & Public Relations Manager—NTRC

## NTRC's 4th Annual *i*<sup>2</sup> Competition officially launched.

The National Telecommunications Regulatory Commission has launched its 4th annual Ideas and Innovation Competition (*i*<sup>2</sup> Competition) on Friday September 16, 2016 at the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Community College, Glen Campus.

In her overview of the competition, NTRC's Consumer & Public Relations Manager, Ms. Keisha Gurley outlined that the competition seeks to get young people involved in doing something for their country while being creative. She further explained that the competition also promotes learning and inspiration into entrepreneurship when the students take on the challenge of developing their own innovative idea or mobile application. She added that due to the high usage of technology in today's world, the NTRC believes that the youth's ideas can be very beneficial to Vincentians and other users worldwide.

Also, addressing the launch was NTRC's Director, Mr. Apollo Knights. Mr. Knights outlined that the competition aims to get young Vincentians inclined to developing apps as many persons have smartphones with multiple apps installed, however, only a small percentage has installed apps developed by Vincentians. Furthermore, to encourage students, Mr. Knights outlined that the largest hotel chain and taxi service are Uber and Airbnb respectively which are mobile applications.

Also making presentations at the launch were Carlon Browne of Digicel, Nyron Collis—last year's winner in the Secondary School Idea category; and Cenus Hinds, past participant in the 2013 *i*<sup>2</sup> Competition and CEO of a local app Konserv. i.

The launch of the Competition marked the beginning of the registration period which is scheduled to run until November 4, 2016. Students can register using a newly developed mobile application which is available on the Google Play Store "NTRCs I Squared App". The app also allows one to view past entries of the competition and receive notifications throughout the competition's phases.

## Social Media Security Tips

Social networks have become an integral part of online lives. They are a great way to stay connected with others, but you should be wary about how much personal information you post. Follow these tips to safely enjoy social networking:

1. Realize that you can become a victim at any time. Not a day goes by when we don't hear about a new hack. With 55,000 new pieces of malware a day, security never sleeps.
2. Think twice about applications that request permission to access your data. You would be allowing an unknown party to send you email, post to your wall, and access your information at any time, regardless of whether you're using the application.
3. Beware of posts with subjects along the lines of, "LOL! Look at the video I found of you!" When you click the link, you get a message saying that you need to upgrade your video player in order to see the clip, but when you attempt to download the "upgrade," the malicious page will instead install malware that tracks and steals your data.
4. Understand your privacy settings. Select the most secure options and check periodically for changes that can open up your profile to the public.

## NTRC to hold Community Discussion in Belair

The National Telecommunications Regulatory Commission (NTRC) will be hosting a Community Discussion to gather feedback from the residents of Belair with respect to the telecommunications services being provided by Digicel, Cable & Wireless and Columbus Communications. Additionally, residents will be informed about the functions and various work completed by the NTRC throughout St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

The event will include presentations from officials of the NTRC and the presentation sessions will be followed by a full question and answer session.

The Community Discussion will take place on Thursday September 29, 2016 at 7:00pm at the West St. George Secondary School located in Belair.

Source: NTRC



## NTRC to host final GMDSS Radio Training

The National Telecommunications Regulatory Commission (NTRC), in collaboration with the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Coast Guard Services and the Fisheries Division, will be hosting the fifth and final free GMDSS Radio Training Session for fishermen and persons involved in maritime activities in the area of Barrouallie. The training session will advise the fishermen and other persons of the GMDSS system which was implemented by the NTRC to facilitate emergency and non emergency communications at sea. Additionally, the training will provide demonstrations on how to use the GMDSS radios which have the necessary features that allows one to communicate via the GMDSS system to the coastguard and other vessels with GMDSS enabled radios.

The Training Session will take place on Tuesday September 27th, 2016 from 5:00 - 7:00 PM at the Barrouallie Learning Resource Center.

Source: NTRC (SVG)

## NTRC Dominica launches E911 System

An Emergency Response System which it is said, will contribute greatly to the safety and security of Dominicans, has been officially launched in Dominica.

The Emergency 911 (E911), as it is called, is an initiative of the National Telecommunications Regulatory Commission (NTRC) and is an integrated 911 system for emergency calls to the police, fire and ambulance services.

The emergency 911 centre will be housed at the Police Headquarters in Roseau and the system will also be installed at the Princess Margaret Hospital. It employs eight persons to fully operate it and costs \$1.8 million.

“This emergency response system will contribute greatly to the safety and security of citizens and visitors alike,” Minister for Information, Science, Telecommunications and Technology, Kelder Darroux said while addressing the launching ceremony at the Fort Young Hotel on Friday. He noted that the response center will serve as a central hall to respond to all emergencies and the initial goal is to significantly reduce the time it takes to respond to an emergency.

Darroux said further that the 911 Emergency Response Centre is equipped with the latest E911 System.

“There are five stations manned with a 911 response operator,” he explained. “All police and fire stations are also equipped with the E911 system. This is to allow staff at those stations to have visibility and information on all emergencies regardless of the location of that emergency.” He said the system has “selective call transfer” which allows the E911 operator to transfer the call to an ambulance.

Additionally, Darroux noted that ambulances have been upgraded to include mobile devices with the latest GPS technology.

He said that at all times, the E911 operator is able to know the location of any ambulance or police vehicle in order to know which ambulance or vehicle is closest to the emergency.

Automatic location identification is another feature of the system. “This provides the E911 operator with an automatic display of the caller’s location from both wireless and fixed networks,” Darroux explained.

He noted that if the caller is unable to respond to the E911 operator, that operator can trace the caller or the incident and send the nearest available ambulance or emergency service responder.

“The E911 system has the capability to support over 500 calls on a daily basis,” Darroux noted. “The system is also installed at the Princess Margaret Hospital and whenever a call is dispatched to the ambulance, the staff on duty at the Princess Margaret hospital will know that the ambulance is on its way, as well as having the information and condition of the emergency ahead of time.”

Source: [Dominica News Online](#)

## ECTEL managing director provides CWC Columbus post merger update



Managing Director of the Eastern Caribbean Telecommunications Authority (ECTEL), Embert Charles, has given an update on the situation relating to the US\$3 billion regional merger of Cable and Wireless Communications (CWC) and Columbus Communications group last year, and how it relates to regulatory matters going forward.

As previously reported, in March this year talks between ECTEL and the enlarged group which trades under the Flow banner ended without 'amicable' agreement.

ECTEL, which was established by treaty in May 2000 to provide an overarching regulatory structure for the Eastern Caribbean states, is obviously concerned about the potential anti competition issues presented by the tie up and has been working diligently with CWC since the merger announcement was made in November 2014. At the time, the regional regulator said it was mindful that existing legislation does not give it enough legal powers to 'stop or impose remedies on companies partaking in mergers and acquisitions in the telecommunications sector'.

Having failed to secure agreement with CWC Columbus on matters such as the minimum speed and price for entry level broadband packages, maintaining an open internet, sharing of telecommunications infrastructure for existing and new entrants to provide new services, and protection provisions to ensure customers are not disadvantaged by new services and pricing, to be implemented following the merger, it is seeking alternative ways of resolving its concerns.

As such, on September 12th Charles has disclosed that with negotiations having broken down, the watchdog has decided 'to go to the second plan which is to declare the joint operations dominant'. The managing director says that clear procedures will be needed to achieve this, noting: 'We have to do the study, we have to do the legal work to ensure the evidence if the companies are operating as one, from there we apply the rule of regulating the prices, regulating these services.'

Source: [St. Lucia News Online](#)

## bmobile launches Mobile Money Revolution



On Monday (September 19), telecommunications provider TSTT launched a bold new product that will revolutionise how individuals and businesses in Trinidad and Tobago conduct financial transactions. It is the bmobile VISA Prepaid Card.

All bmobile customers now have the opportunity to use the new VISA prepaid card to shop locally or abroad, make online and in App purchases, top up and pay their TSTT bills and to stay on top of all these transactions with a special bmobile app on their smartphones.

To ensure this new product delivers first class service, secure cutting edge technology and that it is connected to the largest network of users, TSTT has partnered with two financial giants – Republic Bank Ltd and VISA International – as well as bmobile dealer Cell Master Ltd.

At the launch ceremony held at TSTT House in Port of Spain, Senior Business Development Leader for VISA, Sofia Antor said, "The bmobile VISA Prepaid Card will provide cardholders with a convenient and innovative way to manage their spending and use the prepaid card anywhere VISA is accepted in the local and international markets at different merchant locations, online, and at ATMs worldwide." The specially designed mobile app that is activated with the Card has a wide range of functions. For example, with this App customers can:

- receive a real time App Alert with every purchase, thus providing greater protection against fraud
- see the real time available balance and most recent transactions on their card
- top up their own phone
- purchase top ups for friends and family and apply directly to their phones
- pay blink | bmobile bills remotely

Mobile money has many other applications.

Businesses and small entrepreneurs can benefit from mobile money in traditional cash only arenas such as craft fairs and flea markets. They may also substitute for cashiers or points of sale systems.

Source: [T&T Newsday](#)

## Liberty Global partners with Netflix

Liberty Global plc, the world's largest international cable TV and broadband company, on September 14th revealed a multi year partnership with Netflix Inc. which will lead to Netflix's content being made available to Liberty Global video customers across more than 30 countries around the world.

The launch of the Netflix service on Liberty Global's advanced digital television platforms will bring critically acclaimed original Netflix series and wide range of movies and kids' programming to Liberty Global's video subscribers across Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean.

The partnership follows the successful UK launch of Netflix on Virgin Media in 2013. It is the latest example of Liberty Global's commitment to its customers to bring them the very best in entertainment, all conveniently available on their TV, tablet or mobile phone. Liberty Global's digital TV platforms, like Horizon, bring together the world of broadcast, on demand and online content in a fully integrated and multi device user experience.

The agreement with Netflix complements Liberty Global's investment in content through acquisitions, partnerships and original commissions alongside the \$2.5 billion spent each year on licensed content for its video platforms.

Mike Fries, CEO of Liberty Global, said, "We are committed to bringing the best content to our customers, and are thrilled to expand our partnership with Netflix. This deal will provide even more freedom to our subscribers – allowing them to access a goldmine of amazing TV and films at the click of a button, fully integrated into their usual TV viewing set up."

Reed Hastings, Netflix CEO, said, "This partnership builds on our strong relationship with Virgin Media in the UK, allowing millions of our mutual customers around the world to easily access the broadest range of TV shows and movies without having to search for that other remote control."

Source: [Tech News TT](#)

## Yahoo claims state sponsored hackers stole data on 500 million users



Yahoo acknowledged that a data breach in late 2014 has affected at least 500 million user accounts and was likely caused by "a state sponsored actor." An unidentified individual or group may have stolen names, email addresses, telephone numbers, dates of birth, hashed passwords, and potential security questions and answers. However, Yahoo denies that unprotected passwords, payment card data, or bank account information were stolen.

As a result of this revelation, Yahoo is instructing all "potentially affected users" (basically every user) to change their passwords and "adopt alternative means of account verification." The company has already invalidated all unencrypted security questions and answers, enhanced its systems to detect and prevent unauthorized access, and has been working with law enforcement to find those responsible.

Revealing this security breach comes at a bad time for Yahoo as it tries to keep its \$4.8 billion acquisition deal by Verizon on track. That deal hasn't closed, and there's some speculation that today's announcement could have an impact on the final closing price.

For those that are curious, Yahoo's stock is down 0.67 percent at \$43.84 with less than an hour before the market closes.

Source: [Venturebeat](#)



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