



THE NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS REGULATORY COMMISSION

# ICT NEWSLETTER

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Cenus Hinds (2nd from right) posing with 3rd Prize trophy and his team (SVGCC Mobile Group) at NTRC's 1st Annual  $i^2$  Competition Grand Finale and Prize Giving Ceremony in February 2014

## Former Competitor in NTRC's $i^2$ Competition Participates in TIC Americas 2015

Former Competitor in the NTRC's  $i^2$  Competition, Mr. Cenus Hinds participated in the finals of the 10th Talent and Innovation Competition of the Americas (TIC Americas) and the Eco-Challenge 2015 held in Panama City from April 7-9, 2015 with his mobile application, Konservi.

Konservi is a powerful social promotions app that connects businesses with their customers. Customers use Konservi to stay informed of the best deals and promotions from the businesses they love. Businesses can use Konservi to quickly communicate deals, specials, discounts, promotions and other customer-focused information with their customers in an engaging and interactive way.

Konservi was launched in 2014 shortly after Mr. Hinds and his team "SVGCC Mobile Group" had participated in the first annual NTRC's  $i^2$  Competition. The  $i^2$  Competition was developed by the NTRC to provide a foundation for innovation by giving Vincentian students a forum to be innovative and put forward ideas and mobile applications that could revolutionize the Vincentian society. Mr. Hinds served as a judge for the Secondary Schools category the following year in the 2nd annual  $i^2$  Competition. He was able to use his experience as a young entrepreneur to evaluate the apps put forward by the competitors and advise them on ways they can improve.

Mr. Hinds was among 32 teams from 17 countries selected as finalists in the TIC Americas finals. Some 2,734 teams from OAS Member States participated in the competition, which was organised by the Young Americas Business Trust (YABT) in cooperation with the Organization of American States (OAS).

An elated Hinds says the experience has opened new opportunities for his business to grow. Hinds says he has been in contact with the Panamanian business development sector for a possible Panama launch of Konservi, with investment made by LIME (SVG) for the development of the mobile application. Hinds added that he plans to also do a re-launch of his app in SVG and neighbouring Caribbean countries.

Source: [The Vincentian](#), NTRC

## Smartphone Security



Here are some useful security tips for safer smartphone use.

- 1. Keep it locked**  
Make sure your phone's screen lock is on – at all times – so there's less at risk if your phone falls into the hands of a cybercriminal.
- 2. Monitor how apps behave on your phone**  
Be aware of permission access / requests from applications running on your phone. It's especially important to do this for Android smartphones.
- 3. Be aware of the risks of jailbreaking / rooting**  
Although it might be tempting to root or jailbreak your phone – in order to access specific apps or services – this will strip away the security. To help keep your phone and your data secure... don't root or jailbreak your phone .
- 4. Encrypt your sensitive information**  
If your phone includes data encryption features, make sure you use them. In the event of your phone being stolen, criminals will not be able to access the personal information that's stored on your phone – if that information has already been encrypted.

## Consultation on Price Cap Plan (PCP) for LIME's Regulated Services Resumes



The National Telecommunications Regulatory Commission (NTRC) is resuming a Public Consultation on a proposed new Price Cap Plan (PCP) to regulate certain retail tariffs of Cable & Wireless St. Vincent and the Grenadines Ltd (LIME). The first consultation was held in October 2014. Due to changes in our market, notable the announcement of the LIME/Flow Merger, the Commission decided to restart the consultation process. This will give our stakeholders an opportunity to provide comments on the proposed plan while taking into consideration the effects of this merger.

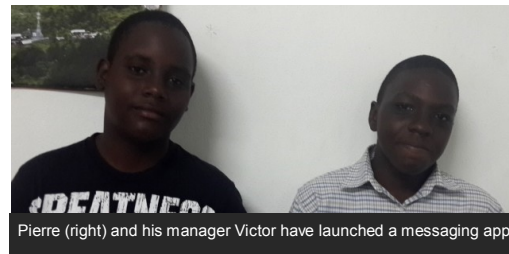
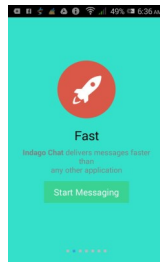
The objective of the PCP is to regulate the rates of certain retail services offered by Cable & Wireless St. Vincent and the Grenadines Ltd during the period May 1, 2015 to March 31, 2018. This new proposed PCP will replace the current PCP that came into effect in 2010.

To facilitate this consultation process a consultative document on the Recommended Price Cap Plan (PCP) for the Regulation of Price Capped Retail Services Provided by LIME has been prepared by the Eastern Caribbean Telecommunications Authority (ECTEL). This document is available in electronic format on the NTRC's website [www.ntrc.vc](http://www.ntrc.vc) and office located on the 2nd Floor of the NIS Building on Upper Bay Street, Kingstown.

The Consultation is opened for comments for the period March 31, 2015 to April 30, 2015 from the Commission's stakeholders. Comments on the initial stakeholder's comments will run from the period May 11, 2015 to May 22, 2015.

Source: [NTRC](http://www.ntrc.vc)

## Dominican Youth Launches Mobile App to compete with WhatsApp & Facebook Chat



Pierre (right) and his manager Victor have launched a messaging app

Competing against giant messaging apps such as Facebook Chat and WhatsApp may sound rather daunting but 12-year-old Jaheim Pierre is going for it anyway.

Backed by his manager, Terrick Victor, who is also 12 years old, Pierre, from Mero, recently launched Indago Chat on 1Mobile Market.

The app will be available at the end of this week on the Google's Play Store, Apple's app Store, Mobogenie, among others.

Pierre is confident that his app is better than WhatsApp because it provides total privacy.

Actually, it was privacy that got the ball rolling into putting the app together.

According to Pierre, WhatsApp doesn't have a log out feature and anyone who gets your phone has access to your account.

"I came up with the idea of the app when my friend got caught," he told Dominica News Online. "He was messaging his girlfriend and he got caught. Why he got caught is because WhatsApp doesn't have a log out button, so he couldn't log out of the account ..."

When Pierre's friend related the story to him, he immediately decided to create a messaging app which would have a log out feature.

He began working on the app at nine and for three years he laboured at home until Indago Chat was born. He said the app is cloud-based and can be used on any platform and any device.

For him privacy was very important while putting the App together and he thinks this is what makes it better than WhatsApp or other messaging apps.

"It is heavily, heavily encrypted," the young programmer said. "Your information is protected, your information will not be revealed."

Pierre said he is willing to sell the app to a company since he is going to be very busy with school.

"Any technological company which is willing to manage the app and to maintain it, I will sell it," he stated. "I have school to go to, I have to maintain my schooling."

The app is available in a number of languages including Spanish, English, Dutch, Portuguese, Italian and Russian. Updates will include voice and video calls.

Source: [Dominican News Online](http://www.dominicannews.com)



## ECTEL Celebrates 15th Anniversary

The Eastern Caribbean Telecommunications Authority (ECTEL), the regulator for telecommunications in five eastern Caribbean states is celebrating its fifteenth anniversary this year having been established by the ECTEL treaty in May 2000. To observe its fifteenth anniversary, ECTEL will be hosting a regional conference in St. Lucia on May 11–12, 2015 under the theme “Committed to Broadband and Open Access in Digital World”. The Conference is designed to share regional perspectives, policies and solutions related to the impact of broadband on economic development. The participants and delegates for the two day conference will include Ministers with responsibilities for telecommunications from the ECTEL member states, telecommunications regulators from the Caribbean region, major service providers and international experts.

## Digicel joins Saint Lucia Internet Exchange (SLiX)

Saint Lucia’s Internet users can look forward to better connectivity and faster speeds between local Internet service providers (ISPs).

Digicel signed a memorandum of understanding on April 2, agreeing to become the newest member of the Saint Lucia Internet exchange (SLiX). Digicel joins its competitors FLOW and LIME, founding members of SLiX, in an initiative designed to improve the reliability of the Internet in St Lucia.

The three ISPs met last March at the Ministry of Public Service, Information and Broadcasting to discuss the possibility of Digicel joining the local Internet exchange. That meeting ended with a unanimous vote, clearing the way for Saint Lucia to become the first Caribbean territory where Digicel is participating in a local IXP.

With the three telecommunications companies peering at SLiX, their networks will interconnect directly, rather than through a third party in a foreign territory. That translates to faster connectivity for customers, and lower operating costs to the Internet service providers, explained Christopher Roberts, Project Coordinator for the Caribbean Regional Communications Infrastructure Programme (CARCIP) in Saint Lucia.

“Without a local IXP, for example, e-mail sent from a customer on one St Lucian ISP to a customer of another St Lucian ISP would have to travel all the way to an IXP in the USA before returning to Saint Lucia. The involvement of that facility in the USA is expensive, could result in delays, and could result in someone or some foreign government inspecting your data,” Roberts said.

SLiX was launched in February 2014, with support from Packet Clearing House, the world’s leading implementation of Internet exchange points or IXPs. Bevil Wooding, Internet Strategist with PCH, said, “Given the consolidation currently being witnessed in the Caribbean telecom sector, Digicel’s participation in SLiX is an important milestone for the region.

SLiX is a component of CARCIP which seeks to help governments and private sector to harmonise the development of critical telecommunications infrastructure across three participating Eastern Caribbean countries—Saint Lucia, Grenada, and St Vincent and the Grenadines.

Source: [SKNVibes](#) via [ICT Pulse](#)

## TATT approves Flow, Cable & Wireless merger

THE Telecommunications Authority of Trinidad and Tobago (TATT) on March 26, 2015 gave its approval for a \$3 billion merger between Cable and Wireless Corporation (CWC) and Columbus Communications, parent company of cable TV provider Flow.

Previously on March 12, TATT had “denied” permission for any such merger unless CWC could vow to divest itself of its 49 percent stake in Telecommunications Services of TT (TSTT), so as to avoid anti-competitiveness in the sector, with CWC then be required to provide an adequate plan for its intended development of Flow/Columbus.

TATT said that since its receipt of the merger application last November, it had spared no effort to do a timely, complete and thorough analysis in a fair and transparent manner.

TATT said it retained its view that the merger could hurt competitiveness in the sector, and that undertakings must be made to reduce this possibility.

Regarding information from Flow/Columbus and CWC, TATT thinks there can be a satisfactory mitigation of any anti-competitive or adverse effects of the acquisition and so will not unreasonably withhold its approval.

“The Authority hereby grants its approval of the application for change of control and shall impose the following conditions in the grant of its approval by this resolution,” said the TATT statement.

The conditions are that Flow/Columbus must maintain their spending on maintenance for five years from 2015, must strengthen its roll-out services in Tobago, and within six months of the acquisition must give TATT a written account of CWC’s proposed funding of the business plans and for further developmental investment, once there is no reduction in spending or any removal of major projects.

All this is not to be based on assumptions such as the award of a mobile concession, said TATT.

Also CWC must adhere to its agreement dated March 18 with National Enterprises Ltd, which holds the State’s 51 percent shareholding in TSTT, and shall completely divest its 49 percent of TSTT shares within one year, or an extended date of an additional six months.

TATT said it reserves the right to review its decision if the acquisition is not completed within one year.

Source: [Newsday](#)

## GSMA wants girls to be interested in STEM subjects and computing from a young age

The GSM Associated has celebrated Girls in ICT Day by hosting an interactive 3D printing workshop for 13-year-old girls from one of London's most deprived communities.

A class of Year 8 students from the Bridge Academy in east London were invited to attend a workshop on April 23, 2015 at digital fabrication and prototyping workspace FabLab London, where women working in technology told them about their jobs in order to encourage girls to see computing as fun and worth pursuing.

"Just 30% of the seven million people working in the European Union's ICT sector are women, and in Silicon Valley, the sizzling mobile hub of the world, only 20% of the app developers are women, and in top-level management positions in those companies, only 11% are women," GSMA's chief strategy officer Hyunmi Yang told IBTimes UK.

"There is still much more to be done to encourage girls to choose a career path in technology, which is a problem because half of the users of mobile technology are women. In order to understand their needs, provide the right services and add the right emotional touch to the technology, we need a lot more women participating."

The problem echoed by all of the female speakers at the event was the fact that girls tend to shy away from science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) subjects in school as the stereotype is that computing is dull and boring. To deal with the general lack of young people going into the ICT industry, the British government overhauled the UK education curriculum in September 2014 to introduce coding in the classroom. All of the girls from Bridge Academy are currently learning to programme their own computer games using Scratch and will soon be moving on to learn the Python coding language, too.

Source: [IBtimes](#)

## Google launches Project Fi mobile phone network



Google has detailed its plan to run a mobile phone network in the US. The firm will rent voice and data capacity from two existing operators - Sprint and T-Mobile - and use existing wi-fi hotspots, rather than build new infrastructure from scratch.

Initially, Project Fi will only be offered to Nexus 6 handset owners.

Google Fiber, the firm's "ultra-fast" broadband service, is already seen as a disruptive force in the US telecoms market.

It has been credited with encouraging Comcast and Time Warner Cable to offer their own customers speed boosts without higher prices.

However, Fiber's roll-out involved Google buying infrastructure built by companies that had collapsed as well as laying its own fibre optic cables - giving it full control of the service.

By contrast, one expert said running a mobile virtual network - which is dependent on rivals' equipment - might limit Project Fi's impact.

"The example of MVNOs in the US and elsewhere suggests that it's hard for their operators to dramatically change the industry because of their nature," said Ian Fogg from the IHS Technology consultancy.

"But the past isn't always a guide to the future.

"No-one would have thought that a handset manufacturer could transform the mobile industry by teaming up with one network - but that's what happened with Apple and AT&T when the iPhone launched.

"And Google itself has repeatedly shown that it is capable of changing the direction of an industry by entering it."

Source: [BBC](#)

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