

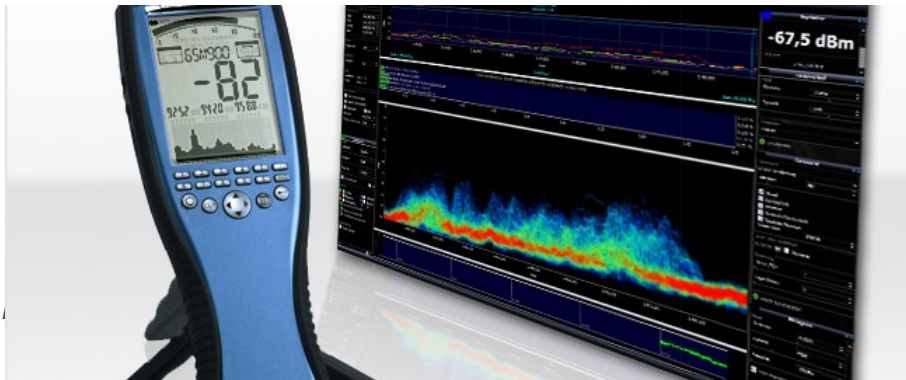


THE NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS REGULATORY COMMISSION

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Aaronia Spectran HF-60105 Spectrum Analyser

NTRC acquires Spectrum Analyser to test levels of exposure from Electromagnetic Fields

The National Telecommunications Regulatory Commission has recently procured an Aaronia Spectran HF-60105 Spectrum Analyser to conduct tests on electromagnetic exposure levels. Although the current telecommunications laws of St. Vincent and the Grenadines does not address this issue of electromagnetic exposure, the Commission saw the need to put measures in place to monitor human exposure to electromagnetic fields to ensure that they are within the allowable limits for humans according to standards set by other international bodies such as the International Telecommunications Union (ITU).

The Spectran HF-60105 has a frequency range of 9kHz to 9.4 GHz which includes a majority of the frequencies used by equipment from telecommunications service providers across St. Vincent and the Grenadines. In addition to monitoring frequencies from radio towers, the Spectran HF-60105 would be used to conduct EMF exposure testing on consumer equipment that have not been approved by international bodies such as the FCC to ensure that their levels of radio frequency exposure are within the allowable limits for humans.

Besides testing for exposure levels, the Spectrum analyser can be used to conduct spectrum monitoring which is one of the Commission's duties according to the Telecommunications Act. The Commission routinely conducts checks around the country on the radio frequency spectrum to ensure that it is being properly used by Telecommunications providers according to the license that they were issued by the Minister of Telecommunications.

Security Tips for Heartbleed bug



A major new security vulnerability dubbed Heartbleed was disclosed early in April 2014 with severe implications for the entire Web. The bug can scrape a server's memory, where sensitive user data is stored, including private data such as usernames, passwords, and credit card numbers. To ensure that your accounts are safe, please take note of the following tips:

1. Be skeptical

The Heartbleed bug first became evident in many websites that we all considered secure when they had a security hole that could expose user data to hackers who could exploit it.

2. Check and recheck lists of affected websites

The chances you may have visited a website affected by the Heartbleed bug are pretty likely as several big websites like Yahoo, Facebook, and Google were all patched following news of the Heartbleed bug.

3. Change your password

If you visit a website that has been vulnerable but is now patched or otherwise fixed, change your password.

N.B. A good password has uppercase letters, lowercase letters, numbers, and special characters.

4G connections forecast to grow almost 4-fold in 2014 for Latin America



The number of 4G connections in Latin America is expected to grow almost four-fold in 2014, reaching 6.4 million at the end of the year compared to 1.7 million as of the end of 2013, according to a release by 4G Americas. However, the number of 4G connections in the region will continue to be dwarfed by 3G lines for the foreseeable future.

Total 3G connections will reach 258mn in Latin America this year, up from 192 million at the end of 2013, the release said. Strong growth in LTE subscribers will continue in Latin America in the coming years, with that figure forecast to reach 82 million by the end of 2018.

Meanwhile, 3G subscribers will also continue to see strong growth in the region, more than doubling between 2014 and 2018 to reach 564 million in that year, 4G Americas said.

Sustained strong growth in both 3G and 4G lines will come at the expense of Latin America's 2G market, which is set to contract from 440 million connections in 2014 to just 164mn in 2018.

As of the end of 2013 there were 37 commercial LTE networks in 18 countries throughout the region, and that figure is set to continue increasing significantly in 2014.

Operators in a range of countries are expecting to launch commercial 4G services during this year, including in Argentina, the Bahamas, Belize, Chile, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela.

The number of LTE lines in Brazil reached 1.3 Million at the end of 2013, according to regulator Anatel, suggesting that the country accounted for around three quarters of all connections in the region at that time.

IDC has forecast 4G lines to grow to 3 Million in Brazil by the end of this year. This suggests that while Brazil would lose share in the region's LTE market, accounting for around 47% of connections by the end of this year in accordance with 4G Americas forecasts, it will remain as Latin America's largest market for LTE.

The figures also suggest that significant growth will be driven by markets from outside of Brazil, with highly populated markets with 4G deployments, such as Mexico and Colombia, appearing as obvious candidates to drive overall regional growth.

Source: [BN Americas](#)

LIME launches HSPA+ Network in St. Vincent & the Grenadines.



On April 15, 2014, a number of LIME's business partners gathered at the Buccament Bay Resort for the company's launching of their HSPA+ network.

LIME General Manager, Leslie Jack told those in attendance that the launch was staged to arouse their craving for the technology. Jack pointed out that in St Vincent and the Grenadines in 2014, LIME will bring to you the 4G technology by HSPA+ (Evolved High Speed Packet Access) and LTE (Long-Term Evolution).

Honourable Camillo Gonsalves, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Trade, Commerce and IT was in attendance at the launch and welcomed LIME's initiative and boasted that the smart phones would now be able to operate at their full potential.

According to Gonsalves, LIME has worked very aggressively with their partners Ericsson in being first-to-market in St Vincent and the Grenadines, and in working out all the kinks.

"The government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines has worked with LIME in devising a package of very attractive incentives and concessions to make sure that they could bring the technology here... and we hope that this is a very important first step, manifesting LIME's commitment to fast communications in this country" he stated.

LIME currently has eleven (11) HSPA+ sites up and running which span from Buccament on the Leeward side to Stubbs on the Windward side. LIME anticipates having the rest of the country completed in the upcoming weeks.

Source: [Searchlight](#)



NTRC hosted 10 girls as part of ITU International Girls in ICT Day Celebrations

On April 24, 2014, the NTRC joined with the rest of the world in Celebrating Girls in ICT Day which is celebrated on the 4th Thursday in April every year. On this day female students are invited to spend the day at the office of ICT companies and government agencies so they better understand the opportunities the ICT sector holds for their future.

At the NTRC, secondary school girls met with Miss Nadine Hull, the ICT Manager who spoke about her responsibilities relating the Commission's computer network and managing the country's radio spectrum. Additionally, there was a demonstration on the use of the Commission's Anritsu spectrum analyser to conduct spectrum monitoring after which they were given some hands on experience.

Also, Miss Shontell Murphy, USF Project Officer spoke to the girls and outlined her roles in relation to coordinating St. Vincent and the Grenadines' first Ideas and Innovations competition.

Digicel acquired SAT Telecommunications in Dominica



The telecommunications company Digicel acquired Pay TV, broadband and fixed telephony operator SAT Telecommunications from the island of Dominica. SAT Telecoms, established in July 1999 was awarded a license in cable television and broadcasting and in 2003 it received a fixed public telecommunications network license, fixed and wireless internet license, allowing it to compete on the local market.

The local press states that the technical and regulatory aspects have already been approved by the Eastern Caribbean Telecommunications Authority (ECTEL) and the National Telecommunications Regulating Commission (NTRC).

Source: [NexTV Latam](#), [Antigua Observer](#)

FCC Frees Up Spectrum to Ease Wi-Fi Congestion



In an effort to alleviate Wi-Fi congestion, the Federal Communications Commission has voted to free up 100 MHz of spectrum in the 5 GHz band. The additional spectrum will create more space for Wi-Fi traffic and make it easier for people to connect both on home networks and at public places such as airports and convention centers. Mobile device users are frequently turning to Wi-Fi as a cost-saving, and often more reliable, alternative to carrier's networks.

"But Wi-Fi has become a victim of its own popularity, and now faces congestion issues of its own. That's why the Commission is hard at work providing spectrum for both licensed and unlicensed use. Both are critically important to our mobile ecosystem," FCC chair Tom Wheeler said in a statement. "In this order, the Commission is taking 100 MHz of unlicensed spectrum at 5 GHz that was barely usable – and not usable at all outdoors – and transforming it into spectrum that is fully usable for Wi-Fi."

Beyond consumer benefits, Wheeler also called the decision a win for American innovators as well. The additional spectrum will help support the growth of Gigabit Wi-Fi that provides speeds greater than 1 Gigabit per second. Wheeler also said that the FCC will continue to work to find more ways to open up additional unlicensed spectrum, which will further improve the Wi-Fi experience for users.

Source: [Telecom Monthly](#)

The internet will have almost 3 billion users by the end of the year, UN report says

The internet will have nearly 3 billion users, about 40 percent of the world's population, by the end of 2014, according to a new report from the United Nations International Telecommunications Union. Two-thirds of those users will be in developing countries.

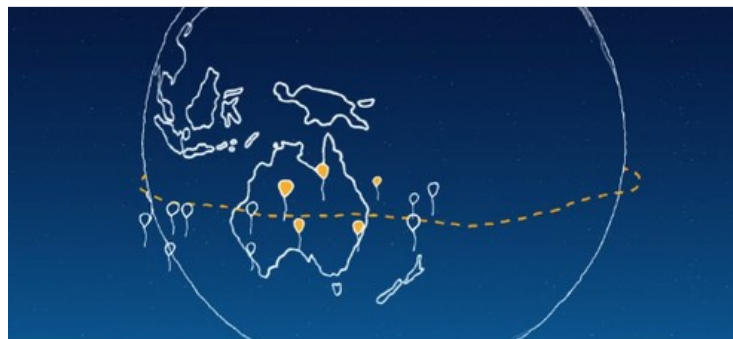
Those numbers refer to people who have used the internet in the last three months, not just those who have access to it.

Internet penetration is reaching saturation in developed countries, while it's growing rapidly in developing countries. Three out of four people in Europe will be using the internet by the end of the year, compared to two out of three in the Americas and one in three in Asia and the Pacific. In Africa, nearly one in five people will be online by the end of the year.

Mobile phone subscriptions will reach almost 7 billion. That growth rate is slowing, suggesting that the number will plateau soon. Mobile internet subscriptions are still growing rapidly, however, and are expected to reach 2.3 billion by the end of 2014.

These numbers make it easy to imagine a future in which every human on Earth is using the internet. The number of people online will still be dwarfed by the number of things, however. Cisco estimates the internet already has 10 billion connected devices and is expected to hit 50 billion by 2020.

Source: [The Verge](#)



Google will partner with wireless carriers to make Project Loon a reality

Project Loon, is a Google X project that uses stratospheric balloons to bring Internet to underserved areas. One thing that has long been unclear about Project Loon is how it would use licensed or unlicensed spectrum and how Google would acquire it.

It turns out that before announcing the project last year, the team was actually hoping to buy harmonized spectrum itself, but it's now planning to work with existing carriers and to use their spectrum instead.

"We actually thought this was just going to be absolutely critical to the project," Astro Teller of Google Project X said. "And we wanted to get it done before we launched." The team had actually worked for half a year to get this spectrum deal done and worked with a number of large companies to make it work. Later on, the team came up with something way better than just buying a small piece of harmonized spectrum. Instead, Loon now uses the spectrum that already exists in a given country.

So when a Loon balloon is over a given country, the Telecommunications providers will be able to lease the balloons while they pass over. As a result, Google doesn't have to license the spectrum because the providers already own it. That way, the providers won't feel as if Google is trying to steal their users. Also, because these large corporations own far bigger wedges of spectrum than Google could have licensed, the project is able to offer users way more bandwidth than they otherwise would have.

Source: [Tech Crunch](#)



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