



THE NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS REGULATORY COMMISSION

ICT NEWSLETTER

NTRC ICT NEWSLETTER ISSUE #46

January 2014



Students using computers at the State of the Art Lab. Mural of innovators can be seen at the back.

SVG Community College gets State of the Art Computer Lab courtesy The NTRC under The USF SMART Project

The students of the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Community College, Division of Technical and Vocational Education (DTVE) are now beneficiaries of a modern state of the art computer lab courtesy the National Telecommunications Regulatory Commission (NTRC) under its Universal Service Fund (USF) SMART Project after the handing over ceremony on Tuesday, January 14, 2014.

The state of the art lab comprises thirty-five (35) high powered computers including fifteen (15) 27" iMac computers and twenty (20) 21" Lenovo all in one computers. These computers have specialized software installed such as AutoCAD, Final Cut Pro, Adobe Creative Suite, Microsoft Visual Studio among others to aid in programs taught at the institution. In addition to these computers, a mural depicting local and regional innovators was painted at the back of the room to increase the aesthetics of the location.

Local innovators included in the painting are Rowland "Scrapie" Dopwell, Mas Innovator; Rosalind Ambrose, Radiologist and Leslie Spence, Virologist. Regional Innovators include: Camille Wardrop Alleyene, Trinidadian Aerospace Engineer; Kim Mallalieu, Trinidadian Electrical and Computer Engineer; Compton Deane, Guyanese Civil Engineer; Oliver Headley, Barbadian Chemical Researcher; Simeon Sandiford, Trinidadian Entrepreneur; and Camille Selvon Abrahams, Trinidadian Animator.

To secure the room and its contents, a state of the art security system was installed which includes a motion sensor and a camera which is monitored remotely.

Overall, the cost of the renovation and equipment for this resource lab amounts to EC \$334,137.00 which brings the total value of equipment handed over so far under the SMART project to EC\$607,223.00

The SMART Project also includes the delivery of a Certificate Program in Mobile Application Development and an Associate Degree in Cyber Security Program. A total of 340 needy households would benefit from subsidized internet at a cost of EC\$10 per month under this SMART Project. The SMART Project contract was signed with Telecommunications Provider LIME in 2012.

Cyber Tips

Safety tips for using a public computer

Don't Save Your Login Information.

Always log out of websites by clicking "log out" on the site. It's not enough to simply close the browser window or type in another address.

Don't leave the computer unattended with sensitive information on the screen

If you have to leave the public computer, log out of all programs and close all windows that might display sensitive information.

Erase your tracks

Use the Private browsing feature in your preferred web browser. Internet Explorer, Google Chrome & Firefox have private browsing features that do not store your browsing information.

Watch for over-the-shoulder snoops

When you use a public computer, be on the look out for thieves who look over your shoulder or watch as you enter sensitive passwords to collect your information.



Students from the Girls High School making a presentation at the preliminary round of the Competition at the NIS Main Conference Room.



NTRC's I² Competition in its final phase

The National Telecommunications Regulatory Commission (NTRC), alongside its partners the National Insurance Services (NIS), the Searchlight Newspaper, the Ministry of Education and the Center for Enterprise Development (CED) is hosting the first annual Idea and Innovation Competition known as the **I² Competition**. The Competition seeks to encourage students from various Secondary, Technical and Tertiary level institutes from across the state to put forward ideas that can implement new systems or improve existing systems in the current departments within the Public Service of St. Vincent and the Grenadines and other state agencies that provide services to the public. Such improvements can lead to cost savings or result in the faster delivery of such service. The Competition was launched on Friday October 18th, 2013 and has progressed past its preliminary judging stages and is now in its final stage. The Competition's grand finale and prize giving ceremony is scheduled to take place at the National Insurance Services (NIS) Main Conference Room on February 11, 2014 from 3:00 PM. At this scheduled event, there will be presentations from a number of secondary and tertiary students in both Idea and Mobile Application categories.

A list of the categories and finalists can be found on the NTRC's website at: <http://ntrc.vc/index.php/gen-page>

Each group will compete for the three coveted prizes respective of the category and institutional level ranging from EC\$1,000.00 - EC\$3,500.00.

For results of this completion, visit our website or check our Facebook page at [facebook.com/ntrcsvg](https://www.facebook.com/ntrcsvg).

Korean carriers to launch 300Mbps LTE-Advanced network this year

Residents in South Korea will soon enjoy 300Mbps wireless on carriers SK Telecom and LG's U+. That follows a similar effort by CSL in Hong Kong, which achieved the same speed



by combining two 20MHz LTE bands. However, SK and U+ will use so-called LTE-Advanced 3-band carrier aggregation tech, marrying three bands to achieve the higher speeds. Before residents there can download the proverbial 800MB movie in 22 seconds, though, 3-band aggregation will have to be standardized globally and adopted by smartphone chip makers (Qualcomm's Snapdragon 805 chip is rumored to support it). While you're mulling that, SK Telecom will actually be showcasing even better 450Mbps tech in February at Mobile World Congress.

Source: [Sktelecom](http://sktelecom.com)

LIME Offers US\$2000 for Mobile App



Telecommunications provider LIME is offering US\$2,000 to the person who successfully creates a mobile application (App), and gets the approval of the competition judges.

“US\$2000 goes out to the student who can deliver the best mobile app between now and when LIME launches 4G in April,” said General Manager of LIME, Leslie Jack in his address to students of the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Community College at the launch of their state of the art computer lab recently.

The “build a mobile app” contest is open to secondary school students between 11 and 18 years, and will see the competitors creating apps that are expected to be developed on the Android or iOS platform, and can be uploaded to either iTunes, Google Play or Amazon.

The students will be judged on originality, creativity and overall educational value, straightforwardness and ease of use, and the student's smart use of technological elements.

The Deadline for submission is: March 31, 2014.

Source: [LWitness News SVG](#)

US Invests in broadband services at schools

FEWER THAN 1 IN 3
OF AMERICA'S CLASSROOMS
HAVE INTERNET ACCESS
THAT SUPPORTS
DIGITAL LEARNING

ConnectedED will connect 99% of students to next-generation, high-speed broadband within five years.

#ConnectedED



In the United States of America, fewer than 30% of America's schools have the broadband they need to connect to today's technology. Under ConnectED project, 99% of American students will have access to next-generation broadband by 2017. That connectivity will help transform the classroom experience for all students, regardless of income.

As the President Obama announced, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) will invest \$2 billion over the next two years to dramatically expand high-speed Internet connectivity for America's schools and libraries -- connecting more than 20 million students to next-generation broadband and wireless. He also announced that private-sector companies have committed more than \$750 million to deliver cutting-edge technologies to classrooms, including:

- **Apple**, which will donate \$100 million in iPads, MacBooks, and other products, along with content and professional development tools to enrich learning in disadvantaged U.S. schools
- **AT&T**, which pledged more than \$100 million to give middle school students free Internet connectivity for educational devices over their wireless network for three years
- **Autodesk**, which pledged to make their 3D design program "Design the Future" available for free in every secondary school in the U.S. -- more than \$250 million in value
- **Microsoft**, which will launch a substantial affordability program open to all U.S. public schools by deeply discounting the price of its Windows operating system, which will decrease the price of Windows-based devices
- **O'Reilly Media**, which is partnering with Safari Books Online to make more than \$100 million in educational content and tools available for free to every school in the U.S.
- **Sprint**, which will offer free wireless service for up to 50,000 low-income high school students over the next four years, valued at \$100 million
- **Verizon**, which announced a multi-year program to support ConnectED through up to \$100 million in cash and in-kind commitments.

Source: [WhiteHouse.gov](#)



NTRC Grenada: USF Broadband for Rural Areas

A five hundred thousand dollar project has been launched in the rural community of Morne Longue, in St Andrew Grenada in September 2013 that promises to increase telecommunications access in the area.

The community access will provide people of Morne Longue with Broadband Internet Service also to be used by other service providers to bring utilities like cable television and cell phone service to the area. These are services that have never been found in that community.

Christa Burke Medford of the NTRC said, the project bridges the information gap in these areas.

“It is envisaged that the broadband programme will boost the provision of other services such as e-government, e-health, e-commerce and distance learning”, she said.

Residents will also be able to improve their skills to become better positioned to obtain employment opportunities, to find markets for products, particularly for farmers who are unable to find markets locally; they can utilize the internet to access markets beyond the boundaries of Grenada, thereby increasing their earning potential.

Source: Gov.gd

TV stations try sharing their airwaves to make room for 4G traffic

TV stations selling spectrum in the FCC's upcoming wireless auction may soon have a viable alternative to moving or shutting down their channels. Two Los Angeles broadcasters, KJLA and KLCS, have agreed to participate in a CTIA-backed pilot project that will test whether or not they can share airspace without interference.

The goal of the pilot program is to show that if implemented in markets across the country, as part of the upcoming incentive auction of television broadcast spectrum, channel sharing would allow over-the-air broadcasters to continue providing – and enhancing – quality content without impacting their viewers while reducing infrastructure costs. Subsequently, the spectrum relinquished by those channel sharing broadcasters would be auctioned with some of the proceeds going to those participating broadcasters to reinvest in services to benefit their communities. In turn, mobile providers will acquire the spectrum in a forward auction so they may continue to expand wireless broadband service coverage to Americans.

If the trial is successful, stations will have much more incentive to give up their frequencies for the sake of phone carriers eager for 4G bandwidth -- networks will get to both keep their channels as well as reduce their operating costs in the process. Cellular providers will have to wait patiently for results, though, as the trial will run through the first quarter of the year.

Source: CTIA



Contact Us

National Telecommunications Regulatory Commission

2nd Floor NIS Building, Upper Bay Street Kingstown
St. Vincent
Tel: 784-457-2279
Fax: 784-457-2834
Email: ntrc@ntrc.vc
Website: www.ntrc.vc



[Facebook.com/ntrcsvg](https://www.facebook.com/ntrcsvg)



[@ntrcsvg](https://twitter.com/ntrcsvg)