

ENSafrica TMT ENSight

Welcome to the fourth issue of **ENSafrica's TMT ENSight**, focusing on topics, news and analysis of novel and interesting developments in the technology, media and telecommunications space. In this edition:

- Our **featured article** looks at the Films and Publications Amendment Act, 2019, which recently came into force.
- **Back to basics**, explaining the ins and outs of contract playbooks and their benefits.
- **Telecommunications**, a roundup of recent developments in the telecoms sector.
- **In the news**, a curation of topical events in the technology and telecommunications industry.

featured article

- **Amendments to the Films and Publications Act, 1996 are now in force**
 - Wilmari Strachan and Naledi Ramoabi look at how the new Films and Publications Amendment Act, 2019 accounts for technological advancements regarding digital content creation and distribution in the new century.
 - Read the article [here](#).

back to basics

- **Contract playbooks**
 - Ridwaan Boda explains why a well-drafted contract playbook is essential to save time, effort and expense in the contract negotiation process.
 - Read more [here](#).

telecommunications

- **GG45939: ICASA Publishes the list of Applicants Qualified as bidders on Licensing Process for IMT Spectrum**
 - On 31 January 2022, the Independent Communications Authority of South Africa ("**ICASA**") received six applications responding to the Invitation to Apply ("**ITA**").
 - The ITA was for the licensing process for International Mobile Telecommunications ("**IMT**") in respect of the provision of the mobile broadband wireless access services for urban and rural areas using complimentary bands IMT700, IMT800, IMT2600 and IMT3500.

- The successful bidders who qualify to proceed to the auction stage of the licensing process are:
 - Cell C;
 - Liquid Telecoms;
 - MTN;
 - Rain Networks;
 - Telkom; and
 - Vodacom.
- ICASA has also amended the timelines for the ITA.
 - **Bidder Seminar:** 28 FEB 2022
 - **Individual Mock Auctions:** 1-3 MAR 2022
 - **Opt-in Auction:** 8 MAR 2022
 - **Main Auction:** 10 MAR 2022
- Further to **GG46013**, ICASA has published a notice regarding the location of the opt-in round for qualified bidders pursuant to the ITA as follows:
 - Date: TUES, 8 MAR 2022
 - Time: Starting at 10:00
 - Venue: The Independent Communications Authority of South Africa
Block C
350 Witch-Hazel Avenue,
Eco Point Office Park,
Eco Park, Centurion, Gauteng
- ICASA reminds qualified bidders that only two authorised representatives will be allowed at the venue and they are advised to be at the venue before the start of the opt-in auction for registration purposes.
- **GG 45984: Broadcasting Digital Migration Policy (as amended): announcement of date for final switch-off of the analogue signal and the end of dual illumination**
 - On 28 February 2022, the Minister of Communications and Digital Technologies proclaimed 31 March 2022 as the date for the final switch-off of the analogue signal.
 - The decision for the final switch-off was made in light of the Digital Migration Regulations (Government Notice 1070, *Government Gazette* 36000 of 14 December 2012).
 - The terrestrial television broadcasting service licensees licence conditions, for licensees who have appointed an electronic communications network service licensee to provide signal distribution services, have been met.
 - The licence conditions are based on coverage requirements for Multiplexes 1 and 2.
 - The number of indigent households which have registered to receive government assistance regarding set-top boxes and the progress made with installing them will enable the analogue switch-off in various provinces by 31 March 2022.
 - SENTECH is the appointed service provider for providing signal distribution services to the South African Broadcasting Corporation ("**SABC**").
 - SENTECH has confirmed that the digital broadcast signal for the SABC, that is provided through terrestrial and satellite networks, is at 100%.

in the news

- **Government has abandoned its requirements for the licensing of Wholesale Open-Access Network (WOAN)**
 - Cabinet has abandoned its plans to launch a Wholesale Open-Access Network ("WOAN"). The open-access network model was first proposed as part of the National Integrated ICT Policy White Paper, published in 2016 under the former minister of telecommunications, Siyabonga Cwele. The model was a key part of the strategy to transform the telecommunications industry and aimed to improve access to broadband connectivity and competition in South Africa's mobile market.
 - Cabinet has revealed that it has approved an amendment of the policy on high-demand spectrum, as well as the policy direction on the licensing of the WOAN. The proposed amendments apparently remove the requirements to licence the WOAN. A new policy direction on the licensing of the WOAN will be published for public comment.
 - Further background regarding the new policy direction can be found [here](#) and [here](#).
- **New directive for government departments that want to use cloud computing services**
 - On 10 February 2022, the Minister of Public Service and Administration approved the implementation of the Public Service Cloud Computing Determination and Directive.
 - The Determination and Directive aims to provide government bodies guidance on how to adopt, use, manage, and terminate cloud services with third parties.
 - The Determination and Directive applies to all government departments and their personnel.
 - According to the Determination and Directive, before using any cloud services, government departments must prepare a business case detailing the scope of the cloud services and conduct a risk assessment and cloud readiness assessment.
 - For government entities that are already making use of cloud computing services, the head of department is expected to conduct a risk assessment and table the risk assessment report of the current services at the departmental risk committee.
 - Government bodies are expected to comply with all the requirements found in the Determination and Directive within six months of approval and publication of the Determination and Directive.
 - More information about the Determination and Directive can be accessed [here](#).
- **South Africa in the top 10 list of countries with the most cybercrimes**
 - Research by Surfshark has revealed that South Africa is part of the top 10 countries in the world that are severely impacted by cybercrimes.
 - South Africa ranks number six on the list and it is the only African country in the top 10 countries.
 - The United Kingdom was in first place, followed by the United States in second place, and Canada ranked third on the list.

- According to the research, South Africa has approximately 51 victims of cybercrimes per one-million internet users.
- South Africa also had the sharpest increase in cybercrimes out of all the countries.
- Surfshark hypothesised that the reason for the increase in cybercrimes in South Africa was due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- More news regarding the report can be found [here](#), and the report can be accessed [here](#).
- **Tech giants partner with GirlCode for all-women hackathon**
 - South African e-tailer Takealot.com, as well as Amazon Web Services, Mint Group, DVT and Lenovo partnered with GirlCode in hosting an all-women hackathon.
 - GirlCode is a non-profit organisation that equips women with skills to take on roles in the technology industry.
 - The theme of the hackathon was "break the bias", and took place on 8 March 2022 and 9 March 2022, in celebration of International Women's Day.
 - Participants of the hackathon formed groups of two to four in order to take part in the hackathon.
 - The hackathon was hosted at the 22onSloane campus in Johannesburg.
 - More on the partnership can be found [here](#).
- **Africa's first Metaverse marketplace launches**
 - On 28 February 2022, Mann Made launched a metaverse marketplace that is known as UbuntuLand.
 - UbuntuLand is the first Metaverse marketplace to be launched on the African continent.
 - UbuntuLand comprises of 204 642 plots of land that makeup different villages in various community hubs.
 - Once live to the public, the plots of land in UbuntuLand will be available for purchase and they will be priced according to a tiered value system.
 - The plots of land in UbuntuLand will be available for the public to purchase in the second quarter of the year.
 - The UbuntuLand currency will be the \$UBUNTU token, and it was built based on the Ethereum blockchain
 - The valuation of the \$UBUNTU token will be calculated according to what users invest, build, or trade inside the metaverse.
 - More information on the launch of UbuntuLand can be read [here](#).

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