



## **African Internet Service Providers Association**

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### **Press Release For Immediate Release**

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### **BIG DISH SELECTED AS THIRD REGIONAL CARRIER BY AfrISPA**

Big Dish have also been selected by the African ISP association, AfrISPA, in response to its Request for Service for data transport between the different ISP members of local Internet Exchange Points. Big Dish Ltd, a new satellite provider incorporated in Mauritius has joined the two earlier bidders that successfully met the Request For Service (RFS) criteria to provide an African Regional Internet Traffic solution. The peering point design can be extended to allow additional Internet Exchanges to join the network with ease at any time in the future.

AfrISPA wants to establish true inter-country connectivity within the African continent, to remove the current dependence upon overseas carriers and to promote the establishment and growth of African regional data carriers. The establishment of a network of Internet Exchange Points (IXPs) within Africa would also result in reduced costs, improved speeds and the improvement of the Internet backbone within Africa as a whole.

Big Dish has implemented a project that will revolutionise Internet access in Africa by breaking the current paradigm of Interconnection charges. This is achieved by buying substantial amounts of bandwidth where it is inexpensive, and delivering it via a leased Teleport and bulk space segment. This yields the capacity to deliver bandwidth via 5 satellites to any corner of Africa, using VSATs and proprietary modems.

This project can help ISPs in the African market who are currently struggling with high interconnection charges. Simultaneously, the Big Dish network can become a regional transit and interconnection provider. The project is being used to easily realize the dream of establishing a Pan African Virtual Internet Exchange (PAVIX) by selling transit at each IXP and offering interconnection between all African IXPs.

According to Matthew Rudd who is the CEO of Big Dish, "Big Dish can leverage its inexpensive bandwidth, burst capabilities and thousands of square feet of rack space into a Point to Multipoint configuration. We can connect every national IXP to each other, and thus exceed the requirements of the original RFS."

#### **About AfrISPA and Big Dish**

AfrISPA is a continental association of ISP associations. AfrISPA's objectives include promoting the development of key Internet infrastructure on the African continent.

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