KIWANJA.NET
MINDFUL SOCIAL CHANGE

MOBILE DATABASE · ARTICLE

WIND POWER

Author / organisation	AllAfrica.com
Year recorded	2007
Region	Africa · Uganda
Category	Other
Original source	allafrica.com
Archive page	kiwanja.net/mobile-database/wind-power/

This document is part of the kiwanja.net Mobile Database, an archive of more than 700 articles, reports and projects on mobile technology for development, collected between 2003 and 2010. It is reproduced here for reference; the original author's rights are retained.

Explore more. Browse the full archive at kiwanja.net/mobile-database.
Looking for support with your own social change work? See kiwanja.net/work-with-me.
Ken Banks offers coaching, mentoring and strategy support.

Micato Safaris
Voted World's Best Safari Outfitter by Travel+Leisure for past 4 years.
www.micato.com
Ads by Google - Advertise on this site

Motorola's First Wind, Solar GSM Base Station Launched

The Monitor (Kampala)
NEWS
18 May 2007
Posted to the web 17 May 2007

By Elias Biryabarema
Kampala

Extension of mobile phone services to rural areas without electricity could now become cheaper and easier following the launch of the first wind and solar-powered Global System for Mobile Telecommunications (GSM) base station by US telecommunications giant Motorola.

MTN Chief Commercial Officer Eric Van Veen has hailed the new technology as revolutionary in the continuous struggle to avail mobile communications to rural stretches.

"It is absolutely a fantastic discovery and we're looking at it as a powerful tool that will help us tremendously to improve our rural mobile coverage."

He said MTN and other operators in Uganda had tried to expand deeply into the countryside; but that they were doing it at unsustainable costs. For instance each base station must have two diesel generators, which require frequent maintenance services.

The highly innovative base station was erected in the Dordabis village in the Khomas region of Namibia recently and the new technology is promising to be a strategic beachhead in the battle for Africa's rural mobile market notably because it eliminates the stifling costs of running diesel generators, currently being used to power base stations in off-grid locations.

Additionally, the new renewable energy power solution will also enable rural mobile people users to recharge their handsets making their use of cell phones more stable.

The station in Namibia belongs to Mobile Telecommunications Limited (MTC) Namibia and was developed in partnership with the GSM Association (GSMA)'s Development Fund.

Ali Amer, Motorola Vice President for Middle East, Africa and Pakistan, said by incorporating renewable energy solutions into communication networks, Motorola was creating feasible options for operators instead of utilising costly fuel generators or waiting long periods for grid connections.

He added that once installed, the cost of power is almost zero.

Wind and solar powered cell sites, he said, require minimal maintenance unlike a diesel driven generator, which generally requires, at a minimum, a monthly visit for refuelling.

"This translates into added savings in operating expenditure, a key factor to emerging market network operators," he said.

"We are excited to be working with MTC Namibia on this solar and wind power powered cell site. Though this particular trial is being delivered on a GSM network, the solution has the capability to be applied to other wireless networks."

Copyright © 2007 The Monitor. All rights reserved. Distributed by AllAfrica Global Media (allAfrica.com).