

# Welcome and Overview 2015

**Diaicel** 

### Introduction



- Welcome to CANTO
- Update on Digicel's broadband projects
- Broadband investment and the impact of OTTs
- > Legal & Regulatory framework for investment





# Digicel Broadband – Where are we?

#### **Mobile**

- 4G data launched 2013-2014
- LTE services in a number of markets and looking to roll out

#### **Acquisitions**

- Anguilla, Bermuda
- Dominica, Jamaica
- St Kitts & Nevis, Turks & Caicos

#### **New rollout**

- Jamaica, Trinidad, Monserrat, Barbados (possible acquisition of divested assets)
- Hoping to rollout in other markets



#### **SAT – Post Acquisition**

- US\$15m investment since acquisition through March 2015
  - 32,500 household passed for high speed broadband.
  - US\$5m lined up in 2015 for further improvements.
  - Brand new all digital TV platform features such as Programme Guide, DVR, Vide on Demand, Catch up TV & Multi-screen capabilities
  - Citizens now have access to world class TV with legal content
- Employment generation
  - 20 additional permanent staff Indirect employment generated for more than 130 Dominicans
- Increased broadband competitiveness and market transparency
  - 4x speed at the same market price as competition thereby enabling more people to access next gen broadband
  - No setup, connection or installation fees charged removing all barriers to connectivity and reducing costs to consumers
  - No unnecessary charges such as fixed line rental without usage of a fixed line

We want to invest but need the right regulatory environment







- Voice OTTs raise key concerns under existing telecommunications framework
- > The combination of:
  - mobile broadband access
  - smartphones
  - internet technology
- has led to the emergence of a new breed of consumer mobile voice and messaging communication services provided by internet-based companies, often referred to as over-the-top service providers (OTTs)
- Viber: a startup in 2010 to over 680 million users by June 2015.
- WhatsApp: over 800 million users + adding 100 user million every six months.
- The combined Facebook/WhatsApp conglomerate currently has over 2 billion users of its services.







- Law is applied unevenly
  - ➤ Telecommunications Acts: A licence is required to offer voice services
  - ➤ Unfair competitive advantage: OTT not subject to the same regulatory requirements, pay no taxes, licence fees etc.
- National Governments
  - ➤ Government revenues decrease as licensed operators lose market share
  - Organized crime: legal interception is not possible





#### Consumer rights

- Data Protection
- Consumer law protections
- > Calls to emergency services
- Cyberbullying, malicious calling, scams

#### Impact on Operators

- ➤ In Europe predicted: Voice & SMS revenues will decline by 30% & 40% by 2017
- ➤ Data revenues will not make up the difference: overall revenues will decrease by approx. 25%
- India 50% of operators voice and SMS revenues will be lost to OTT (Credit Suisse)
- Caribbean problem: incoming international calls
- Investment needed: faster mobile networks for the Internet of Things



## Securing Investment in Broadband

"Everybody knows today that with telecom service providers and OTT [players], there are unbalanced relations and we have to find a better balance," ... "Financing of broadband networks is crucial".

- Andrus Ansip, EU Digital Single Market Commissioner
- European Commission is working on a review of the existing EU regulatory framework which would focus on encouraging investment in infrastructure.
- Legislative proposals to reform the current EU telecoms rules in 2016 – may apply the regulatory framework to OTTs.





- Transparent evidence based regulation
  - EU review ongoing
  - TRAI in India
  - TRA Bahrain
  - TATT in Trinidad & Tobago
- > To incentivize investment in Broadband
  - "Same rules for the same service" The regulatory framework must apply equally
  - Internet conglomerates must contribute towards network costs: investing in local economies
  - A fair commercial solution is required unfair contracts not acceptable



# Disincentives: "Net Neutrality"

"a solution that won't work to a problem that simply doesn't exist"

- Mr. Ajit Pai, FCC Commissioner

- ➤ US rules suit US based content providers "The most effective cartel is one that the government itself supervises for its members by force of law." Prof. Sidak
- ➤ EU: Net Neutrality a disincentive to investment allow Operators prioritize certain services for optimum use of networks
- ➤ Caribbean current policy must aim at boosting penetration which gives people access: commercial freedom is important
- Crucial issue separate from OTT discussion



### **Conclusions**

- Priority must be increasing broadband penetration
- "Same rules for the same services" OTTs must be within the regulatory framework
- ➤ The reality of OTTs must be recognized the internet is not a "free for all"
- Prioritize Investment transparent evidence based approach to regulation is required
- Solutions that are appropriate for the Caribbean are required



# END

# **Digicel**