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BICS and Vodafone Roaming Services bring their roaming hub communities closer together to boost international roaming

In a first move, this major hub-to-hub agreement will simplify the administration of roaming traffic between Belgacom, MTN, and Vodafone networks. Over time, the hub cooperation will expand to handle roaming traffic between all operators on both hubs.

BICS, the leading global provider of Voice, Messaging, Roaming, Connectivity and Mobile Financial Services, and Vodafone Roaming Services, the leading roaming hub provider, have announced today a peering agreement between their roaming hubs. As of March 2011, Belgacom, Tango, and MTN networks connected to the BICS hub will be able to manage their roaming traffic with Vodafone's mobile operators via a single hub-to-hub connection. This significantly decreases the administrative and technical burden usually associated with roaming.

Over time, this global initiative will enable all operators on both roaming hubs to increase the number of roaming services and destinations they can market to a total of more than 1 billion mobile customers.

Roaming hubbing represents a significant improvement over the current bilateral approach to roaming agreements which forces every operator to establish dedicated connections with every other roaming and messaging partner, creating a mountain of paperwork and complexity. The roaming hub community created by this interconnection agreement is a major contribution to achieving seamless roaming for all mobile services, in a secure, reliable and scalable environment.

"This cooperation is a major step for the mobile industry to guarantee seamless roaming for all mobile users when they cross national borders, and is a direct response to the expansion of the mobile environment globally in terms of subscribers, networks, technologies and applications", says Daniel Kurgan, CEO of BICS. "This initiative will provide customers with valuable benefits in the fields of service and coverage expansion, quality of service and operational efficiency."

About BICS

BICS delivers best in class global solutions for Voice, Messaging, Roaming, Connectivity and Mobile Financial Services to hundreds of telecommunication providers around the world.

With our passionate and creative teams located in Brussels, Bern, Monaco, Dubai, Singapore and New York, we continuously strive to provide our customers with the highest levels of quality, reliability and interoperability that enable them to maximise End-user value.

Our innovative approach is visible through our place at the forefront of the market consolidation and technology advancement. We are a joint venture of Belgacom, Swisscom and MTN, and have rolled out transformative Next Generation Networks (NGN). This together with our continued focus on Value Added Services for Mobile Operators and our growth strategy has enabled us to reach a world-leading position both on the International Voice and Mobile Data markets.

For more information, please visit: www.bics.com.

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