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OVERVIEW OF ICT IN RWANDA

Information and Communication Technology is a central engine to driving Rwanda's transformation to a knowledge based economy, a fact Rwanda has acknowledged by allocating a budget to ICT - as a percentage of its GDP - that is at par with OECD countries.

Rwanda continues to be one of the fastest growing African countries in ICT and there are several avenues for growth for the ICT sector – from e-commerce and e-services, mobile technologies, applications development and automation to becoming a regional center for the training of top quality ICT professionals and research. A robust ICT industry can create wealth, jobs and entrepreneurs.

Rwanda's ICT Competitive advantage

1. Cheap labor compared to other countries in the Region
2. Young and dynamic workforce (98% of the population is under 50 years and 43% is under 16 years)
3. Most favorable business environment in the Region (8th best place to do business in the world 2012)
4. Low levels of corruption - Zero tolerance (Transparency international Bribery index 2012 ranked Rwanda as least bribery prone in the EAC)
5. World class ICT infrastructure
6. Strong & visionary leadership
7. Bi-lingual business environment (French and English)

Mobile broadband penetration

The country's leading mobile telephony providers are MTN Rwanda, TIGO and Airtel. The network coverage accounts for **99.79%** of the country and the current subscriber base is at **63.5%** (**6,689,158** subscribers **December 2013**). The long term outlook of growth in these numbers is **7,437,196** by Q4 2016

Rwanda's Internet penetration grew from less than 1% in 2000 to 13% at the end of December 2013. In addition to existing ICT infrastructure as well as access network rollout program, investment in a 4G LTE network is expected to increase penetration to at least **95%** by end of **2016**.

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