

Digital economy boost as the DRC's first Tier-III, open-access, carrier-neutral data centre goes live

- OADC Texaf Digital is the DRC's first live Uptime Institute Tier-III certified open-access colocation data centre
- OADC Texaf Digital an essential building block of DRC's expanding digital ecosystem
- Multiple sectors of DRC economy will benefit from accelerated digitalisation



OADC Texaf Digital – Kinshasa, DR Congo

Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), 14 August, 2024 – The first phase of OADC Texaf Digital, a joint venture between Open Access Data Centres (OADC) and TEXAF, is now live. OADC Texaf Digital is establishing a vibrant digital ecosystem supporting Internet Exchanges, content providers, cloud operators, carriers, telcos and Internet Service Providers (ISPs) in offering a wide range of digital products and services to business and domestic customers in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).

The 2MW-capable facility is the DRC's first live open-access, carrier-neutral and Uptime Institute Tier-III certified data centre, with ISO27001 post live certification on track for Q3 2024. Clients are already establishing and installing in the facility and all major fibre network providers are present to provide vibrant interconnect to tenants. The facility offers integrated core digital infrastructure solutions comprising tailored colocation services together with a wide range of reliable connectivity

and peering options. Power to the data centre is fed from utility sourced from hydro generation ensuring environmentally sustainable power generation in tandem with low Power Utilisation Effectiveness (PUE). The facility underpins and is accelerating the country's digitalisation and ICT capabilities, enabling clients to cost-effectively, flexibly and securely grow their operations within the DRC.

With a population of more than 16 million, Kinshasa is at the epicentre of demand for digital connectivity services within the DRC and the region. OADC Texaf Digital, located within TEXAF's SILIKIN VILLAGE digital hub, is operated by the award-winning WIOCC Group company OADC, Africa's fastest-growing data centre company. Configured with 1,500 square metres of IT white space to accommodate more than 550 racks, it delivers colocation, interconnect and peering services to support the colocation needs of enterprise clients, content distribution networks, local and international cloud providers. This enables them to improve efficiency, expedite digitisation initiatives, and more effectively service business and customer needs.

This infrastructure, with its white space architecture and the interconnect and peering ecosystem, is ideally suited to the large international Content Distribution Networks, global content companies and cloud providers that will be able to invest in the DRC.

Mohammed Bouhelal, Managing Director of OADC Texaf DRC, commented: "OADC Texaf Digital is central to boosting many sectors of the DRC's economy, creating rich and vibrant digital ecosystems, and providing content distribution networks and cloud content providers with access to a quality peering location in the country."

He added: "We already have over 12 leading national and international carriers connected with the banking sector being the leading adopter of OADC Texaf solutions. The open-access, carrier-neutral facility is set to transform the country's digital infrastructure by creating a comprehensive, vibrant interconnection and peering ecosystem involving multiple carriers, ISPs, content providers and Internet Exchanges."

The facility embodies carrier-neutral principles, maximising interconnection opportunities for all clients. Increased competition and improved operator cost-efficiencies will contribute to the expected decrease in the cost of internet connectivity for the Congolese people and companies, serving as a major enabler for expansion of the DRC's digital ecosystem. It will not only offer businesses a viable alternative to self-build and self-manage data centre facilities, with all the benefits of dedicated resource, expertise, management time and costs that come with that, but also support the cloud infrastructure and content needs of a wide range of businesses and enterprises. Carriers will benefit too, as OADC Texaf Digital offers them both additional connectivity revenue opportunities and the opportunity to extend their service portfolios to include managed colocation services.

OADC and TEXAF have partnered in creating this essential building block of the DRC's digital transformation. This fully validates TEXAF's strategy of attracting international industry leaders such as OADC into the country and specifically into the new SILIKIN VILLAGE digital hub.

Christophe Evers, Chairman of OADC Texaf's board of directors, said, "Establishing a strategic partnership to build a data centre in the DRC is crucial for driving digital transformation and economic growth in the region. By leveraging the joint strengths and expertise of OADC and TEXAF, we are not only enhancing digital connectivity and infrastructure but also creating opportunities for businesses to thrive in a rapidly evolving digital landscape. This collaboration underscores our commitment to delivering world-class data centre services that meet the growing demands of enterprises and support the broader objectives of economic development in the DRC. It is a cornerstone of the DRC's National Digital Plan announced by the President of the Republic and, as such, has benefited from the support of National Agency for Investment Promotion ("ANAPI")."

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Notes to Editors

About Open Access Data Centres – <http://www.openaccessdc.net/>

Africa's fastest-growing data centre company, Open Access Data Centres (OADC), a WIOCC Group company, is implementing a world-class, open-access, carrier-neutral, pan-African data centre footprint that delivers an unparalleled client experience, offering expert assistance and support, partnership in tailoring bespoke solutions and leading-edge information systems to support client business decision-making.

OADC is deploying its open-access, Tier-III hyperscale data centres at major cable landing locations and in key business hubs throughout Africa.

OADC EDGE data centres are being deployed into smaller locations, serving the ongoing need to support service providers in extending network reach, and the rapidly growing requirement for content storage, processing, and delivery at the network edge.

OADC is an environmentally responsible company and as such is pursuing a wide range of environmental and sustainability management accreditations.

About WIOCC Group

Since 2008, WIOCC Group, Africa's converged open-access digital infrastructure (CODI) leader, has been helping transform Africa's digital landscape by introducing client-centric innovations.

WIOCC Group is the parent company of [WIOCC](#), Africa's digital backbone, and Open Access Data Centres ([OADC](#)), Africa's fastest-growing data centre company. It is pioneering and accelerating Africa's digital transformation: creating an environment in which all Africans can take advantage of world-class technology developments to build better lives, better businesses and a better world, by deploying CODI across Africa; infrastructure that is expediting and underpinning Africa's digital transformation.

About TEXAF – www.texaf.be

Established in 1925, TEXAF is the only listed company with all its activities in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). Currently, these are concentrated on real estate and quarrying, although TEXAF is beginning to develop a new branch of activity in the digital field and aims to become a major player in this sector.

This listing on the stock exchange and the resulting obligations of good governance and transparency constitutes a major asset for the group's development and for the promotion of the formal sector in the DRC.

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