

Transformation from Electric Grid to Utility – Telecom Grid for affordable Internet Access and Economic Growth in Developing Countries

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Innovation and disruption

It is undoubtedly true however that both reliable, affordable and sustainable power and broadband access are vital for economic growth. Broadband access is a new frontier whose full impact is yet to be known although trend analysis indicate a transformational impact both at organizational and household levels. Broadband networks are an increasingly integral part of the economy. According to Cross sectional study - World Bank (Qiang et al. 2009), found that a 10 percentage point increase in fixed broadband penetration would increase GDP growth by 1.21% in developed economies and 1.38% in developing ones.

Kenya Power installed fiber optic infrastructure in the power grid in the year 2009 for Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition SCADA and Corporate Data Networks respectively. The Company diversified into Telecom Business thereafter to lease excess fiber optic capacity to Telecom Service providers for alternative revenues. The company has since invested heavily transforming the power grid to Utility Telecom grid by deploying aerial fiber optic network. The company is leading provider of dark fiber broadband infrastructure and upcoming mid-tier data center service provider. Customers comprise Safaricom, Jamii Telecom, Wananchi Telecom, Wananchi Group, Liquid Telecom, Telkom Kenya, Airtel, Bandwidth and Cloud Services BCS, Frontier Optical Networks FON. This KPLC offers at the most affordable price and highest service availability of 99.99%. Benefits associated with Utility aerial broadband fiber networks are low cost of ownership 3 times cheaper than underground fiber networks, existing infrastructure, way leaves, faster roll-out, business processes and experienced staff.

By 2018, the company had achieved an annual revenue of over **USD 4 million** from the telecom business. The owns over 4000 Km of aerial fiber comprising Optical Ground Wire fiber and All Dielectric Self Supporting - fiber.