



African Telecommunications Union (ATU)
Union Africaine des Télécommunications (UAT)

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1st August 2006

Invitation to a Workshop on Powerline Communications (PLC)
3 and 4 October 2006, Novotel Hotel, Dakar, Senegal

Madam/Sir,

The African Telecommunications Union (ATU) is honored to invite you to participate at a workshop which it is organising on Poweline Communications (PLC), an alternative last mile platform with high potentials for Africa.

PLC technology uses the electrical grid for broadband communications including telephony and may as such draw upon a more ubiquitous coverage than fixed telephone in many regions. It is under commercial exploitation in many international countries among them the USA, Germany, France and Portugal.

Today, still many of our African citizens are excluded from access to Information and Telecommunications technologies, and African broadband markets remain far behind European developments. At the same time access to the Internet is being seen as one of the most important ways of realizing Universal Service Objectives especially in rural and remote locations.

The ATU has evaluated the potential of PLC and sees benefits for Africa in developing this platform. Indeed, PLC can provide telephony and broadband access to fight the digital divide and can generally increase service innovation and adoption through infrastructure competition.

The ATU would like to encourage information exchange and adoption which is why it has decided to hold an introductory workshop on key issues such as technology, standardisation, potentials, implementation scenarios, opportunities and barriers, factors for the development of internet & broadband.

This workshop will be carried out in French and English with simultaneous interpretation and both languages, will take place on the 3rd and 4th of October 2006 in Dakar, Senegal, where Senelec co-host of the event, is conducting a trial project on PLC. Further, PLC manufacturers and other stakeholders of the industry have been invited to participate into the discussions and presentations.

I would like to invite you to this session, which is expected to create successful base to explorations for applying PLC to the African context.

Akossi AKOSSI

Secretary General
