

- Held several consultative forums with non-GSM service providers, drafted licensing terms and conditions for non-GSM services (including Internet Service Providers and Radio/TV stations); received forty two (42) applications to provide various forms of telecommunications services, including Third Generation (3Gs) services and community radio stations. Sixty percent (60%) of these applications have at this writing been processed.
- Collaborated with the Ministry in the verification exercise of the evolving Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Policy and the formulation of a policy framework for fibre-optic/broadband connectivity in Liberia
- Established mechanisms for the construction of an official website to be fully operational by early 2010

WHAT ARE SOME OF LTA'S PRESENT CHALLENGES?

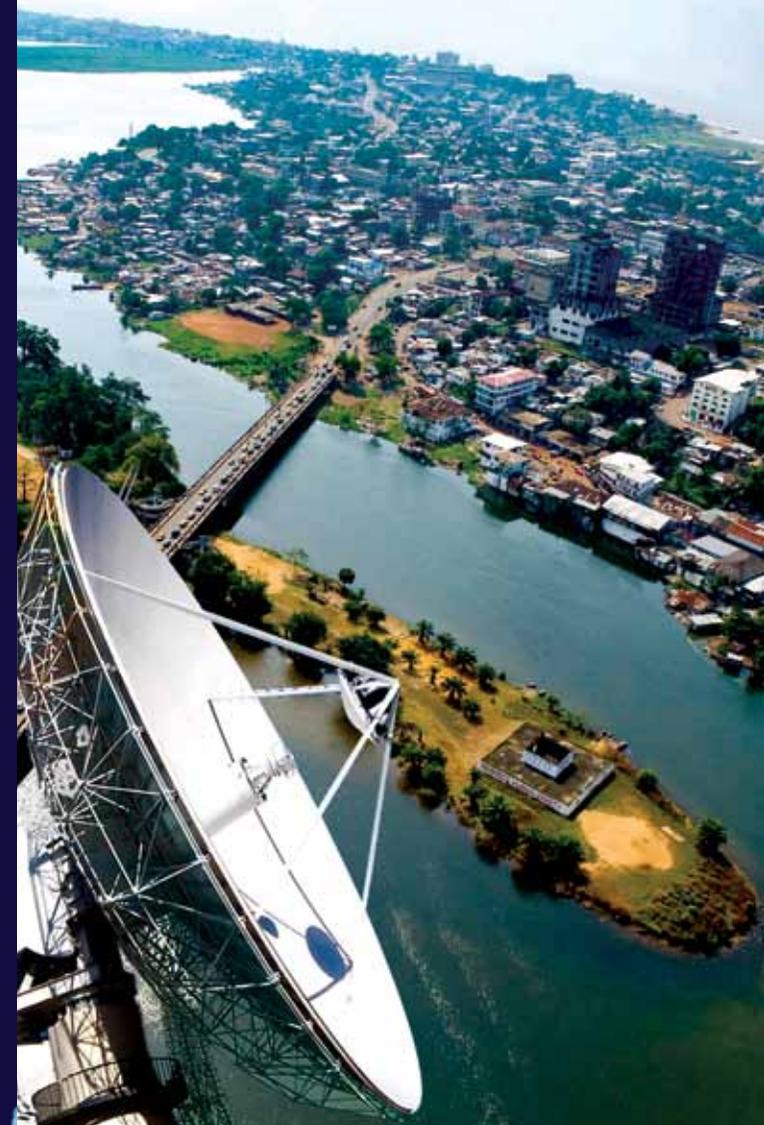
- Constraints in mobilizing adequate resources for the effective implementation of the regulator's statutory mandate
- The need to create more awareness about the nature of the LTA among stakeholders
- Limited office space for its growing staff and high cost of renting office space
- Inability to expand its activities into the rural areas due to resource constraints
- Struggle to retain required expertise due to better remuneration offers at other sector-related entities, such as network operators.

WHAT ARE SOME OF LTA'S IMMEDIATE AND LONG-TERM GOALS?

- Establishing a Universal Access Program—aimed at ensuring the availability of reliable, affordable and accessible telecommunications services to all Liberians
- Establishing an effective Consumer Affairs Desk that will help in informing, educating and protecting consumers in the country, including establishing an efficient and proactive mechanism for receiving and following up consumer complaints against operators/service providers
- Acquiring technical capacity to effectively monitor the telecom market
- Establishing regulations on Quality of Service (QoS) standards for the benefit of end-users
- Ensuring the provision of universally accessible and affordable broadband
- Completing standardization of non-GSM operators
- Establishing criteria for identifying and declaring the **dominant** service operator in Liberia
- Acquiring/constructing its own headquarters

LIBERIA TELECOMMUNICATIONS AUTHORITY

“Support the LTA as it strives to create the enabling environment for the provision of accessible, qualitative and affordable telecommunications services for all, and maximize the benefits of the sector for the people of Liberia as well as for sector investors”



**For more information about the
Liberia Telecommunications Authority
Inquiries may be addressed to:**

Department of Public Affairs
Liberia Telecommunications Authority
Methodist Compound, 12th Street
Sinkor, Monrovia

Telephone: +231 77 051 051
Email: info@lta.gov.lr
Website: www.lta.gov.lr

Liberia Telecommunications Authority

The premier regulatory authority...

WHAT IS THE LTA?

The Liberia Telecommunications Authority (LTA) is the regulatory and competition authority charged with the responsibility of ensuring a vibrant telecommunications sector that is market driven and promotive of accessible and affordable ICT based telecommunications services for all Liberians. The LTA was created by the **Telecommunications ACT of 2007 (Telecom Act)**, which repealed in its entirety **Act No. 18** of the erstwhile National Transitional Legislative Assembly of Liberia (NTLA), which was an Act to Amend the Public Authorities Law Creating the Liberia Telecommunications Corporation and the Executive Law Creating the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications, and to Establish an Interim Framework for Telecommunications Regulation dated 5 September 2005.

WHAT IS THE VISION OF THE LTA?

The premier regulatory authority providing trusted leadership in the creation of a vibrant socio-economic environment, through the effective use of telecommunications and information communications technologies.

WHAT IS THE MISSION STATEMENT OF THE LTA?

To consistently create an enabling environment that promotes market driven fair competition, which provides accessible and affordable communication services for all.

WHAT ARE THE LTA'S KEY FUNCTIONS?

- Advise the Minister of Posts and Telecommunications on policies for the telecommunications sector
- Issue individual and class licenses, including licenses for international telecommunications facilities and services, and design and implement the processes for issuing such licenses
- Issue regulations to establish license, spectrum and related fees
- Monitor and enforce compliance by licensees with the conditions of their licenses
- Amend, modify, suspend or revoke licenses in accordance with the Telecom Act and regulations issued pursuant thereto
- Regulate interconnection between telecommunications networks of different service providers
- Implement tariff regulation in consonance with the relevant portion of the Telecom Act
- Resolve disputes between service providers, and between consumers and service providers

- Establish a radio spectrum plan and manage radio spectrum allocated to the telecommunications sector, and establish a numbering plan and allocate numbers to service providers
- Institute and maintain appropriate measures for the purpose of preventing service providers from engaging in or continuing anti-competitive practices
- Require information (including financial, technical and statistical) that the LTA needs in order to exercise its powers or perform its functions under the Telecom Act
- Whenever deemed legally appropriate, impose penalties, including any fines or other penalties or sanctions, on licensees for breach of license conditions, regulations, the Telecom Act or any rule or order of the LTA
- Carry out any responsibilities, functions and powers assigned to the LTA in any universal access policy or program established
- Represent Liberia in international telecommunications regulatory organizations.

HOW IS THE LTA SET UP?

The LTA is administered by a five-member Board of Commissioners (BOC) — appointed by the President of Liberia and confirmed by the Senate (of the National Legislature) for a tenured term of four (4) years, which may be renewed by the President for one additional term of four (4) years. The President designates one of the five Commissioners to serve as Chairperson. All major decisions of the Commission are ideally reached by consensus, failing which a simple majority vote will carry the decision of the BOC on any given issue. Commissioners who are not in agreement with a majority decision may put on record their dissenting opinions.

The Telecom Act forbids Commissioners and permanent staff from engaging in any other employment or receiving any other form of compensation or remuneration while they are members of the LTA.

As it stands now, the LTA is organized on a departmental basis. There are five (5) key departments: **Administration; Technical/Engineering; Service Delivery/Market Structure; Public/Consumer/Legal Affairs; and Government Affairs.**

HOW IS THE LTA FUNDED?

The LTA is an autonomous/independent entity which is primarily funded through fees (including those for spectrum, numbering usage and penalties) established by the regulator and paid by spectrum users. These fees are used to fund the expenses of the LTA in the exercise of its regulatory authority/responsibilities, in-

cluding personnel and regulatory equipment costs. **The LTA directly and indirectly contributes revenues to the National Budget, but gets no budgetary appropriation from the Government of Liberia.**

WHAT IS LTA'S RELATIONSHIP WITH THE MINISTRY OF POSTS & TELECOMMUNICATIONS?

In a way, it can be said that the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications (Ministry) and the LTA are cut from the same Legislative cloth. In accordance with the Telecom Act, the Ministry continues to exercise the functions and responsibilities provided for in the Act creating the Ministry, except as amended by the Telecom Act, which took away the regulatory functions hitherto carried out by the Ministry and transferred them to the LTA. In essence, the Ministry remains the policy maker, and the LTA takes care of the regulatory responsibilities of the industry. For example, the Ministry develops policy of general application to the telecommunications sector and provides policy advice to the GoL on matters relating to the sector. In doing so, however, the Ministry is required to seek the views and recommendations of the LTA, particularly on policies or exercise of authority likely to have substantial impact on the telecommunications sector. Concurrently, the LTA is obliged to implement policies developed by the Ministry/GoL, having been a part of the advisory process leading to the development of all such policies. Notwithstanding this collaborative relationship, **the Telecom Act requires the Ministry to facilitate, and not interfere with, the proper exercise of authority by the LTA under the Act.**

WHAT ARE LTA'S KEY ACHIEVEMENTS THUS FAR?

- Completed a long drawn-out GSM harmonization and licensing standardization process involving the four existing GSM operators (Lone Star, Libercell, Cellcom, and Comium) in early 2009, which has boosted GoL revenue intake from the sector
- Developed a National Numbering Plan and assigned number blocks to the operators
- Formulated a strategic plan—outlining short, medium and long-term goals for the LTA
- Implemented several recommendations arising from the General Auditing Commission's 2006 – 2008 audit of and report on the LTA
- Established and published Interconnection Regulations following consultations/discussions with service providers
- Held a successful Universal Access workshop—and established the framework for subsequent implementation of the Universal Access policy, including the establishment of the Universal Service Fund, consistent with the Telecom Act