



DECISION DOCUMENT

**OF THE MINISTERS RESPONSIBLE FOR ICTS
AND /OR TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

**ON FAST-TRACKING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
EASSy CABLE**

Prepared by

NEPAD e-Africa Commission

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Implementation Timetable for the NEPAD ICT Broadband Infrastructure Network, including the EASSy Cable

WHEREAS:

1. All the countries and stakeholders involved in the NEPAD ICT Broadband Infrastructure Network have expressed a desire to have the NEPAD ICT Broadband Infrastructure Network Project implemented as quickly as possible;
2. The NEPAD e-Africa Commission has prepared a time-table for the fast tracking of the implementation of the Project;
3. The proposed fast tracking Implementation Time-Table deals with both the implementation of the EASSy Cable and the initiation of the implementation process for the NEPAD Terrestrial Broadband Network;
4. The proposed fast tracking Implementation Time for the NEPAD ICT Broadband Infrastructure Network will build on the work that has already been undertaken by members of the EASSy Consortium, COMTEL, SRII, COM-7, and the NEPAD e-Africa Commission;

AND WHEREAS:

- 5 It is anticipated that with the endorsement of the proposed fast tracking Time-Table by the Ministers responsible for Information Communication Technologies (ICTs) and / or telecommunications in Eastern and Southern Africa, the NEPAD ICT Broadband Infrastructure Network Project will be fast-tracked and thus lead to the realisation of the policy objectives of the network as soon as possible.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE AFORESAID MINISTERS RESOLVE AS FOLLOWS:

- 6 Endorse the Fast-Tracking Time-Table proposed by NEPAD e-Africa Commission, for the implementation of both the EASSY cable and the initiation of the NEPAD Terrestrial Broadband Infrastructure Network as reflected in the table below:

Fast-Track Timetable for the EASSy Cable	
Meeting of Inter-governmental Working Committee (IGWC) & Regulators	2 – 3 June 2006
The IGWC meeting decides on establishment of a Steering Committee that will include companies:	2-3 June 2006
IGWC & Regulators meet DFIs	3 June 2006
Meeting of IGWC, Regulators, Telcos & DFIs	3 June 2006
Meeting of IGWC (prep of Decision Docs for Ministers)	4 June 2006
Meeting of Ministers	5 & 6 June 2006
Establishment of Interim IGA by Minister's meeting	6 June 2006
Establishment of Steering Committee by Ministers' meeting	5 & 6 June 2006
NEPAD e-Africa Commission requests Governments to nominate potential shareholders	15 June 2006
Meeting of IGWC & Telecom Operators - Formation of Joint Steering Committee – Kenya	July 2006
Detailed Feasibility Study to connect Mauritius	Q3 2006
Registration of Submarine (EASSy) SPV	Q3 2006
Deadline for Nomination of Shareholding Entities	Q3 2006
Circulation by NEPAD e-Africa Commission of list of operator shareholders submitted by countries	End July 2006
Meeting of Interim IGA	
Agree on non-operator shareholders	
Appoint representative+ to SPV Board	July 2006
Governments sign Protocol – Kigali, Rwanda	August 2006
Appointment of Directors by Shareholders	Q3 2006
Directors appoint Professional Management Team	Q3 2006
Establishment of Project Team by Steering Committee	Q3 2006

Board of Directors & Management team take over responsibility for progressing project further	
Financial closing	Q3 2006
Sign Supply Agreement	Q3 2006
Construction of the cable	Q3 2006 – Q1 2008
EASSy ready for commercial service	Q1 2008

Fast Tracking of Terrestrial Network	
Detailed Feasibility Study for the Terrestrial Network	Q3 2006
Register Terrestrial SPV	Q4 2006
Nominate Shareholding Entities	Q4 2006
Shareholders Meeting	Q4 2006
Sign Shareholders Agreement	Q4 2006
Begin construction of missing links	Q1 2007

Decisions by Ministers on fast tracking.

1. Appoint a 14 Member Steering Committee to run affairs of the project until appointment of Board of Directors of the SPV and:-
 - 1.1 Assume the role of EASSy Promoter
 - 1.2 Decide on schedule for:-
 - Start process to register and establish SPV
 - Meeting of potential shareholders
 - Finalisation and signing of Shareholders' Agreement
 - Commitment of equity by Shareholders
 - 1.3 The composition of the Steering Committee shall include seven Members from the IGWC and seven Members from telecommunications companies. The NEPAD e-Africa

Commission will be Coordinator and Secretariat of the Steering Committee.

- 1.4 Nominated IGWC representatives shall be from the following countries:
 1. Botswana
 2. Malawi
 3. Mozambique
 4. Rwanda
 5. Somalia
 6. Tanzania
 7. Uganda
- 1.5 Botswana was elected as the current Chair of SADC. As this chairmanship changes, so shall the representative country change.
- 1.6 Members from telecommunications companies are yet to be nominated.
- 1.7 The Steering Committee will elect its Chairperson.
- 1.8 Regional Economic Communities (RECs) will be invited to Steering Committee meetings as Observers.
2. Authorise the Steering Committee, as Project Promoter, to appoint a Project Implementation Team for construction of the EASSy cable.
3. Decide on modalities for identification of institution to prepare Project Information Memorandum (PIM), and raise equity and debt financing.
4. Authorise the NEPAD e-Africa Commission to raise the funding needed for the interim work leading up to having the EASSy SPV Management in place, including a Detailed Feasibility Study for connecting Mauritius to the submarine (EASSy) cable. The Interim Work has been estimated to cost US\$ 3 million.
5. Authorise a feasibility study for the NEPAD Terrestrial Broadband Network at an estimated cost of US\$ 0.8 million.