



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ZICTA ISSUES NOTIFICATION OF AWARD FOR A NETWORK LICENCE UNDER THE INTERNATIONAL MARKET SEGMENT AND A SERVICE LICENCE UNDER THE NATIONAL MARKET SEGMENT

The Zambia Information and Communications and Technology Authority (ZICTA) is pleased to announce that UZI Zambia Limited has been issued with a notification of award of licences to provide similar services to what the three existing Mobile Network Operators are currently offering

This notification is for a Network Licence under the International Market Segment and a Service Licence under the National Market Segment with the associated resources.

UZI Zambia Limited has pledged to invest over USD350 million and will create over 450 direct employment opportunities to support their operations in Zambia.

The company intends to deploy LTE technology countrywide for their network which would fully support both 4G and 5G technologies. The investment has also earmarked presence in unserved and underserved areas of the country and will deploy 100 universal access sites in these areas.

The major shareholder for UZI Zambia Limited is Unitel International Holdings B.V which is duly registered in the Netherlands. Unitel International Holdings B.V has a good track record spanning a period of over ten years with presence in Angola, Sao Tome and Principe, Cape Verde and Portugal.

This development follows the conclusion of a technical and financial evaluation process of the investment proposals in support of the issuance of the two licenses

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received by the Authority. Pursuant to the Licensing Guidelines of 2017, on September 26, 2017, the Authority, through an open competitive process, invited for investment proposals that would lead to an issuance of the licenses.

The Authority received two investment proposals at the time of closing for receipt of Investment Proposals on December 18, 2017 at 10:00hours local time. Ensuing from this evaluation process, UZI Zambia Limited has successfully been identified for the issuance of the two licenses.

The process leading to the notification for award of the licenses was preceded by comprehensive market reviews undertaken by ZICTA between 2015 and 2017. The market reviews revealed among other things the need to deepen competition on the market with a view to attain improvements in the quality of services offered on the market, attain more competitive pricing outcomes as well as enhance the levels of investment on the market.

The market has over the last few years also experienced exponential growth rates in subscription to ICT services which provides scope for more players to participate in the provision of services whilst maintaining viability.

This notification for issuance of the two licenses is in line with the medium term forecast by the Authority for improving market outcomes in the ICT sector as outlined in its strategic plan for the period 2017-2021. The country can look forward to improvements in the quality of services offered on the market, competitive pricing outcomes as well as enhanced diversity in the product offerings on the market arising from this initiative to deepen competition on the Market.

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