

TECH DIGEST

OCTOBER 2023

Olaniwun Ajayi LP presents a summary of the key news on developments in the Nigerian technology sector in the month of October.



DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION: FEDERAL GOVERNMENT RELEASES BLUEPRINT ON DIGITAL ECONOMY

TECHDIGEST | 03 OCTOBER 2023

In furtherance of the Federal Government's commitment to digital transformation, the Ministry of Communications, Innovation and Digital Economy has released a strategic blueprint which aims to accelerate the diversification of the Nigerian economy through technological innovation. The blueprint focuses on five pillars namely knowledge, policy, infrastructure, innovation, and trade. Most notably, on the knowledge pillar, the ministry intends to implement plans to train three million early to mid-career technical talents and prioritise job placements throughout the next four years. This is set to significantly increase the level of digital literacy of Nigerians, positioning the country amongst the top 25% in global research in key technology areas.

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NDPC PROBES COMPANIES ON ALLEGATIONS OF DATA BREACH

NIGERIA COMMUNICATIONS WEEK | 06 OCTOBER 2023

In furtherance of its statutory functions, the Nigerian Data Protection Commission (NDPC) began investigating the data processing activities of Meta, Opay, and DHL following receipt of complaints of alleged violations of the Nigeria Data Protection Act 2023 (NDPA) by the companies. The complaints levied against the companies range from behavioural advertising without the consent of data subjects, violating the lawful basis and principles of data protection, and opening bank accounts for data subjects without their consent.

Upon conclusion of the investigations and if found liable for any of the alleged violations, the NPDC is empowered to make certain enforcement orders including an order to pay a penalty of two (2) percent of the company's annual gross revenue from the preceding year.

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LAGOS STATE TO INTRODUCE GIS TECHNOLOGY FOR EFFICIENT LAND USE CHARGE COLLECTION

NAIRAMETRICS | 10 OCTOBER 2023

In a bid to curb the evasion of land use charge payments by holders of rights of occupancy (ROO) in Lagos State, the Commissioner of Finance, Mr. Abayomi Oluyomi has announced that the state will be implementing an advanced Geographic Information Management System (the GIS) for property mapping and identification starting from December 2023.

To foster an efficient land use charge collection system, the GIS will automatically generate bills for ROO holders, by utilizing a valuation methodology which will determine the appropriate market value of the property.

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NEW NCC EXECUTIVE VICE CHAIRMAN, MAIDA ASSUMES OFFICE

NAIRAMETRICS | 18 OCTOBER 2023

In October, the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria appointed Dr. Aminu Maida as the new Executive Vice Chairman of the National Communications Commission (NCC) in a shakeup that affected three agencies under the Ministry of Communications, Innovation, and Digital Economy. Dr. Maida assumed office with a promise to ensure that all Nigerians have access to affordable and reliable broadband internet services.

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ENDEAVOR AND FMO PARTNER FOR AFRICAN AGRITECH ACCELERATOR IN JANUARY 2024

TECHECONOMY | 20 OCTOBER 2023

Endeavor, a South African resource company for impact entrepreneurs, and Nederlandse Financierings-Maatschappij voor Ontwikkelingslanden N.V. (FMO), the Dutch entrepreneurial development bank, have announced the continuation of the African Agritech Accelerator, an initiative that aims to support African Agritech businesses and address the growth issues these businesses face by providing tailored support, mentorship, and access to a global network of investors.

The program is scheduled to continue with the second cohort in January 2024, building on the success of the first cohort which ran from February 2022 to February 2023.

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FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SIGNS N1 BILLION DEAL WITH IHS TOWERS TO BUILD 3MTT COMMUNITIES

NAIRAMETRICS | 23 OCTOBER 2023

The Federal Government has signed a N1 billion deal with IHS Towers, a telecom infrastructure company, to establish learning communities across Nigeria as part of the 3 Million Technical Talent (3MTT) initiative introduced by the Federal Ministry of Communications, Innovation and Digital Economy. This program is designed to cultivate a pool of technical talents with a view to generating two million digital jobs by 2025. 3MTT seeks to develop Nigeria's technical talent infrastructure, support the growth of its digital economy and position the nation as a significant exporter of talent.

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DATA PROTECTION: NIGERIA ADMITTED AS MEMBER OF GLOBAL PRIVACY ASSEMBLY

NAIRAMETRICS | 24 OCTOBER 2023

Nigeria's efforts to protect and preserve data have earned it admission as a member of the Global Privacy Assembly. The adoption of the NDPA in June 2023, was the primary factor in the membership decision. Nigeria's accreditation was decided upon during the 45th Global Privacy Assembly Closed Session, which took place in Bermuda in October 2023.

With this recognition, Nigeria is now seen as one of the countries in the world with adequate provisions for data safety and protection. It is expected that the assurance of robust data safety and protection legislation will assure investors of their data safety while doing business in Nigeria and possibly encourage foreign investments in the country.

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