



## **ST. VINCENT & THE GRENADINES FIRST SOVEREIGN NATION TO BE 100% NGN ENABLED**

**100% broadband penetration just one of the benefits as old network is shut down.**

St. Vincent and the Grenadines has switched off its old network to become the first sovereign nation in the world to be fully Next Generation Network (NGN)-enabled.

The four year project has delivered new network technology giving the country universal broadband penetration, with every household now able to set up online access in minutes.

On Tuesday 5 October LIME, the leading Caribbean telecoms operator owned by Cable & Wireless Communications, turned off its System X equipment and turned on its new NGN. It is a rare, and complex, process for telecoms operators to change their switching equipment, which sits at the heart of a network controlling how calls are routed and which services are provisioned.

The System X network operated for 25 years. It operated in a traditional manner with the company's engineers and technicians having to be an integral part of the provisioning exercise for all telecom services. In contrast, the NGN will enable customers to self-install services, meaning they can access new products much faster and more easily.

The NGN, which is based on the Internet Protocol (IP) backbone, can manage products and services utilising the full range of modern technologies: wireless; mobile; fibre; cable, or upgrades to existing copper lines. This will enable LIME to improve the delivery of existing services and new ones to come, such as broadband, Voice over IP (VoIP), fixed-mobile convergence and television over IP (IPTV).

LIME's NGN supports the Government's goal of getting broadband access in every home. Now every home with a fixed line connection can self-install broadband and be online in only a few minutes.

Tony Rice, Chief Executive of Cable & Wireless Communications, commented:

"LIME's NGN creates the infrastructure which gives all Vincentians access to broadband services. Our ability to provide broadband services to any fixed line customer in just a few minutes is a tremendous improvement. It underlines how Cable & Wireless Communications is delivering on the commitment to operational excellence."

LIME's Chief Operations Officer, David Crawford added:

"The NGN is a fantastic demonstration of our ability to deliver large and complex projects. There are many cases across the world where telecoms providers had a vision of moving to full NGN but have failed to deliver on the promise. I am immensely proud of our team's achievement in delivering the world's first complete NGN infrastructure to St. Vincent and the Grenadines."

The NGN project began four years ago, with LIME contracting Huawei and Sonus Networks to deploy the network throughout St. Vincent and the Grenadines. LIME has invested more than US\$8million over the intervening period.

The project team upgraded the entire backbone of the country's transmission network to a modern IP based infrastructure. This will help LIME meet increased bandwidth demands from customers. The country's fixed-line and core network was also replaced and upgraded. Every household in St. Vincent and the Grenadines can now get a fixed line. The expansion of the network also enables LIME to deliver faster broadband speeds and high bandwidth services.

LIME's General Manager for St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Angus Steele explained:

"Our bandwidth in St. Vincent and also in the Grenadine islands has been tripled, serving some of our top customers there. Increased bandwidth also paves the way for a portfolio of new products and services in the future such as IPTV."

The announcement of the world-leading development was made at a function in Arnos Vale, St. Vincent, attended by a large gathering of Vincentians, led by Prime Minister, Dr. Ralph Gonsalves. At the event the NGN was unveiled and System X switch was officially switched off.

St. Vincent and the Grenadines is a nation in the southern portion of the Windward Islands, located in the south-east of the Caribbean Sea. The territory covers 389-square-kilometres (150 sq miles) and includes the main island of St. Vincent and the northern two-thirds of the Grenadines, a chain of smaller islands stretching south towards Grenada. The islands have a total population of around 120,000.

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## About Cable & Wireless Communications

Cable & Wireless Communications is a global, full-service communications business. We operate leading telecommunications businesses through four regional units – the Caribbean, Panama, Macau and Monaco & Islands. Our services include mobile, broadband and domestic and international fixed line services in most of our markets as well as pay-TV, data centre and hosting, carrier and managed service solutions. Our operations are focused on providing our customers – consumers, businesses, governments – with world-class service. We are the market leader in most products we offer and territories we serve. For more information visit [www.cwc.com](http://www.cwc.com).

## About LIME

LIME (Landline, Internet, Mobile, Entertainment) is the Caribbean's leading telecommunications company, focused on building products and services that make Caribbean people's lives better. LIME's aim is to deliver the best communication services across the board, full stop. LIME is part of Cable & Wireless Communications, one of the world's leading international communications companies.