

Oni Communications presents a Programme for the development of New Generation Networks

Lisbon, 10th March 2009 - Oni Communications is, at the moment, the only telecommunications operator to have presented the Government with a specific programme for the development of the New Generation Networks (NGN), containing particularly important initiatives in terms of employability and economic stimulation. This programme emerges following the protocol which was established last January between the Government and telecommunications operators with the objective of accelerating investment in NGN.

Oni Communications aims to provide information on its strategic vision for the swift development of NGN, having delivered a specific proposal - the ONI.PRO Programme - to the Ministry of Public Works and Telecommunications for this purpose. Oni Communications has already invested approximately 400 M€ in NGN solutions, and furthermore plans to invest over 22 M€ during 2009 under ONI.PRO, which amounts to 422 M€ of investment in NGN.

According to Xavier Rodriguez Martin, CEO of Oni Communications, «*The protocol of commitment assumed with the Government represents, for us, a fundamental milestone in the development of NGN. Therefore, it is with great satisfaction and dedication that we present a set of solutions which we believe will contribute to meeting the needs of the country. Fortunately, Oni Communications is growing, in counter-cycle with the economy, hence our investment plans are directed towards meeting the Government's needs, which, in this way, should accelerate the achievement of the objectives we had already defined*».

In the document proposed by Oni Communications, the operator assumes the commitment, during the present year, to increase total investment in assets by 12% to approximately 14 million euros, increasing direct investment in optical fibre by 130%. Other aspects of particular importance in this proposal include the increase of qualified employment, through the undertaking of investments which contribute to stimulate the economic activity of the country, through the effort of internationalisation and, simultaneously, through the adoption of a socially responsible attitude.

Also important is the fact that, under the terms of this programme, Oni Communications assumes the commitment during the course of 2009, for example, to increase its number of employees by 15%, integrate all employees with fixed-term contracts as permanent staff of the company and achieve the ambitious objective of being a zero carbon company.

It should be noted that if the percentages of growth in investment and in the workforce of ONI COMMUNICATIONS were to be replicated in the sector, this would result in the creation of 1900 new jobs and in an increase of overall investment in the sector by 140 million euros to reach a total of 1,340 million euros.

About Oni Communications

Oni Communications is an operator of communication solutions focused on the business and operator markets. In 2008, ONI presented positive net income, becoming one of the first new operators in Europe to reach the break-even point. Turnover was over 130 million euros, of which almost two thirds refer to complex data and integrated solutions services.

Oni Communications has a market share greater than 20% in the corporate and operator segments (C&C), which positions it as the European alternative operator with the largest market share in these segments.

The company is held by The Riverside Group (62.5%) and Gestmin SGPS (37.5%), through WinReason.

For further information, consult www.onicomunications.pt

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