



**ADDRESS BY THE DG/CE NATIONAL SPACE RESEARCH AND
DEVELOPMENT AGENCY, S.O. MOHAMMED (PhD), ON TUESDAY, 8TH
MARCH, 2011 AT NASRDA'S CONFERENCE HALL ABUJA**

Protocol:

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you all to the Communication Satellites Stakeholders meeting with the theme: "NASRDA's Strategic Vision for Communication Satellites in Nigeria and Africa for the Next Decade" being organized by the National Space Research and Development Agency (NASRDA) in Abuja. Your being here today underscores the importance you attach to this all important stakeholders meeting, which is intended to discuss the need assessment of stakeholders on NASRDA's next generation communication satellite development. You will recall that a similarly workshop was organized prior to the development of NigComSat-1 communication satellite.

At that stakeholders meeting, participants expected NigComSat-1 satellite to: provide continental access capacity to deliver Voice, Internet, Data access to deprived urban centres, rural and remote areas; Enhance increase in telecommunication growth rate to an annual minimum of 13.5%; Serve 10% of rural communities in the short term, 30% in the medium term and 60% in the long term; Enhance the affordability of communication services; Create millions of job opportunities through enhancement of private sector investment in satellite communication; Achieve a tele-density of over 10% by 2010 according to ITU standard and a tele- distance of less than 5km per telephone; and Provide critical ICT infrastructure needed to leap frog into the information age; Build indigenous capacity in satellite technology

through know how transfer; Provide a platform for linking educational institutions, regional organisations and governments in Africa; Enhance good governance, transparency and accountability thus bridging the gap between political leaders and the people; and Provide back bone for Tele- Education and Tele-Medicine.

As a result, today's needs assessment workshop has become necessary given the vital role of communication satellite technology in global affairs and Africa in particular. Today, there are over 250 communication satellites providing global services for Television and Video Services, Satellite Voice Communications, Data Communications, Mobile and Personal Communications. The telecommunication market has remained dynamic and fast changing with continuous growth in revenue base. For example, revenue from global communication services grew from US\$38 billion to US\$97.2 billion between 1996 and 2004. Similarly, estimates show that the global revenue from communication satellites development was above \$200 billion in 2010. In Africa, between 2004 and 2006, mobile telecommunication service subscribers grew from 80 million to 205 million (an increase of over 200%).

In addition, the Nigeria Telecommunications Report Q1 2009 showed that Nigeria had 56 million active mobile subscribers at the end of September 2008; this is equivalent to a penetration rate of 35.5% and reflects growth of more than 38% in the first nine months of the year. Based on this performance, Nigeria finished 2008 with a little over 62.8 million mobile customers and a penetration rate of almost 40%. At the end of September 2009, Nigeria recorded over 70 million active subscribers. By the end of 2013, it is predicted that the market will have grown to over 184 million mobile customers; this is equivalent to almost 106% penetration. Therefore, Nigeria and indeed Africa, remains a major market for the products from communication satellites.

Today we have gathered here to brainstorm on what should constitute the next generation Nigeria communication satellite. Some of the issues that readily come to mind include: Satellite Communications Systems and Services for Security and Emergency Management applications; Applications of Satellite Communications to Unmanned Aerial Vehicle; Developments of Satellite Communications Technology and Applications; Laser Satellite Communications System; Satellite/Terrestrial Frequency Sharing and Satellite Formation Flying.

Consequently, I invite you to contribute to this very important discuss so that at the end of this event, a position paper will be developed to guide the development of the next Nigerian communication satellites. As you all know the question that has continue to investments in global communication satellite technology development is: What are people willing to pay for?

Thank you for listening.