



SONEMA and AFRIBONE hold a joint workshop in Conakry about the IT and Telecoms issues facing Guinean businesses

Monaco-Conakry, 7th June 2017

The SONEMA group and their partner AFRIBONE Guinea brought together 30 businesses from Guinea Conakry to discuss the latest IT and Telecoms issues. This unique event offered a framework of information and discussions between experts in order to jointly manage the problems which face the country's businesses.

The rapid evolution of IT technologies requires telecom service integrators to constantly adapt in order to offer scalable solutions which are best suited to the customer's requirements.

Seamless connectivity, data and application security, value-added services: these are the key issues which businesses must address in order to ensure their growth and development. Facing increasingly sophisticated IT systems, they need to monitor, secure and control their data, whilst optimising their business costs.

In order to best respond to their customers and prospective customer's expectations, SONEMA, a network service provider of telecom solutions in Africa and their local partner AFRIBONE, a pioneer of the Internet in Guinea since 1997 welcomed 30 local and international businesses from different sectors in Guinea Conakry, to discuss their problems, understand their point of view and listen to their stories.

The workshop was held on Wednesday the 24th May at the Hotel NOOM in Conakry, and was the opportunity for SONEMA and AFRIBONE to present their skills and services to local businesses in order to tackle these new challenges by providing reliable and scalable solutions.

The workshop participants discussed key issues for local businesses:

- The development of terrestrial networks thanks to the progressive deployment of fibre optics.
- This development is however still limited by the telecoms infrastructures within the country. A factor which strengthens the installation of hybrid networks with a backup link.
- IT security, which is rapidly becoming a key issue for Guinean businesses and which requires support measures.
- The advantages of data centre services: the quality of the infrastructures, the level of security, and the quality of the managed services, the optimisation of operational costs for a business.

The discussions about these topics raised many questions and interactions, demonstrating the interest and momentum of Guinean businesses for these issues and topics.

The workshop was followed by a dinner, concluding the day with a moment of sharing and conviviality for the participants.

Bory DIALLO, Managing Director of AFRIBONE Guinea stated: "Our knowledge and our in-depth understanding of new technologies allow us to tackle issues efficiently, and respond to the expectations and strict requirements of our customers in terms of the design and deployment of IT and Telecoms networks."

Catherine DELOM, SONEMA's Managing Director stated: *"With our partner AFRIBONE, we have the same standard of excellence for our customers, to help them to increase their growth, improve their productivity and boost innovation for their own customers. Because these issues are evolving, their requirements are increasingly complex so we must be able to adapt accordingly. It was vital for us to discuss these issues with them in order to better understand their needs".*

In organising this workshop, SONEMA proved its desire to pursue its commercial development by associating with local businesses. Following the success of the first workshop, SONEMA has already planned a second event which will take place on the 14th September in Niamey, and will be organised in conjunction with GAMMA INFORMATIQUE, SONEMA's local partner in Niger.

ABOUT SONEMA

In a digital environment which is continuously evolving, data control and exploitation are and will remain an integral part of competitiveness and distinctiveness of companies. It has become essential to set up a strategy to secure flows and protect data.

By operating and managing scalable, bespoke telecommunications solutions, Sonema supports its customers in their projects every day. With commitment in mind, and with a strong understanding of what is at stake, we want to be a proactive partner for our customers by allowing them to concentrate on the heart of their profession and on their business innovation.

Faithful to our values of respect, transparency and responsibility, we place trust at the heart of the relation with our customers.

Sonema, also means:

- 65 colleagues who are committed to our customers, every day
- 600 customer installation in 50 countries
- 50 certified partners all over the African continent
- Sonema is founding member of the CEMA (Club of Monegasque Entrepreneurs in Africa)

More information: www.sonema.com - Press contact: communication@sonema.com

ABOUT AFRIBONE GUINEA

AFRIBONE Guinée SA was created in Conakry in 2000, replacing BINTTA Guinea which was a key participant in the launch and development of the Internet in 1997. AFRIBONE Guinea is an Internet and IP services provider and IT and telecom services integrator specialising in Business Telecommunications (networks, network core and IP telephony, video surveillance via an IP camera network etc.).

Business networks and IT systems are AFRIBONE Guinea's main activities. As an alternative operator, AFRIBONE Guinea provides a high level of expertise in identifying requirements and defining network architecture as well as in supplying IT and telecoms equipment, installing IT systems and providing network supervision and security.

AFRIBONE Guinée provides all the core network infrastructure which it develops for its customers, and trains network administrators as well as users and developers. We provide technical assistance for our partners and customers and carry out maintenance for their installations.

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