Q2 June - August 2026 Edition

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Nigeria’s Digital Economy Outlook Q2 2026

*Regulation, Resilience and the High-Stakes Race to **$1 Trillion***

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IT Edge News.Africa Editorial ***Q2 June - August 2026 Edition***

The $1 Trillion Imperative: Why Nigeria's Digital Economy Needs Law, Not Just Innovation

Nigeria's digital economy has crossed a decisive threshold. By Q2 2026, digital activities account for nearly **20% of GDP**, with revenues projected to exceed **$18.3 billion** this year—almost double their 2021 size. Telecoms, fintech, data platforms, and digital services are now central to growth, investment, and job creation.

But scale changes everything. As the sector matures, a hard truth is clear: **innovation without structure is no longer enough**. Nigeria's digital economy has outgrown the fragmented policies and overlapping mandates that guided its early rise. What it now needs is a **coherent legislative backbone** equal to its economic weight.

A System Strained by Fragmentation

Key regulators are active—but disconnected. NITDA is shaping AI and cloud policy. NDPC is enforcing data protection. NCC is resetting telecom regulation. FCCPC is policing digital markets. Each mandate is valid. Together, they create **regulatory friction**, uncertainty, and rising compliance costs for startups and investors navigating multiple, sometimes conflicting rules.

This is not coordination. It is congestion.

Why a Digital Economy Act Matters

Nigeria does not need more agencies—it needs **alignment**. A comprehensive **Digital Economy Act** would harmonise mandates, reduce duplication, and provide a single statutory framework for the sector. Critically, it would:

- Anchor AI, data governance, competition, and telecoms within one national digital framework
- Simplify compliance for businesses and investors
- Codify digital rights, consumer protection, and platform accountability
- Provide legal backing for critical digital infrastructure protection

Clear rules do not stifle innovation—they **unlock scale**.

A Narrow Window for Reform

The NCC's review of the **2000 National Telecommunications Policy** is a rare opportunity. That policy predates smartphones, fintech, and platform economies. Its successor must go beyond telecoms and recognise connectivity as the **foundation of a broader digital economy**.

The proposed **National Digital Economy and E-Governance Bill** is a step forward. But only if backed by political will and disciplined implementation. Laws without enforcement are symbolism, not strategy.

The Stakes Are Structural

Nigeria's $1 trillion economy ambition will not be achieved by energy and talent alone. Digital could deliver **up to 25% of GDP within five years**, but only with regulatory clarity, investor confidence, and institutional trust.

In a data-driven economy, **trust is capital**.

The Bottom Line

Nigeria's digital economy has proven its potential. What it lacks is a legal architecture that matches its ambition. The race to $1 trillion will not be won by innovation alone. But by the quality of the laws and institutions that allow innovation to scale, safely and sustainably.

- *IT Edge News.Africa will continue to track this journey, interrogate policy, and amplify the voices shaping Nigeria's digital future.*

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NITDA
National Information Technology Development Agency
NDPC
NIGERIA DATA PROTECTION COMMISSION
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Nigeria's Digital Economy Outlook Q2 2026:

Regulation, Resilience and the Race to a **$1 Trillion Economy**

Overview: From Rapid Growth to Regulated Maturity
Nigeria's digital economy has entered a decisive phase in Q2 2026—shifting from rapid expansion to structured consolidation. According to sector estimates aligned with National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) indicators, digital activities now account for **approximately 20% of national GDP**, underpinned by telecommunications, fintech, digital services, and data-driven platforms. Revenue projections place the sector on track to generate **over $18.3 billion by the end of 2026**, nearly doubling its estimated size in 2021.

This acceleration is now being shaped less by unchecked innovation and more by **regulatory direction, infrastructure resilience, cybersecurity enforcement, and data protection accountability**—marking a transition into a more complex, sophisticated, and policy-driven digital economy.

A New Order in Banking
Nigeria's financial sector is undergoing a structural reset in 2026, driven by aggressive recapitalisation and far-reaching CBN reforms. Tier-1 banks may still lead in assets, but Tier-2 and digital-first institutions are rapidly emerging as the new champions of profitability, innovation, and investor returns.

Q2 2026 Defining Forces: Regulation Meets Scale
Three forces define Nigeria's digital economy outlook in Q2 2026:

1. **Regulatory Tightening Across Digital Markets**
   Regulators are asserting firmer oversight as digital platforms deepen their economic and social footprint.

   - **National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA)** is advancing its Strategic Roadmap and Action Plan (SRAP 2.0), positioning itself to guide AI governance, cloud sovereignty, and digital public infrastructure.
   - **Nigeria Data Protection Commission (NDPC)** is intensifying enforcement of the Nigeria Data Protection Act (NDPA) 2023, moving organisations from voluntary compliance to strict accountability.
   - **Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC)** is executing the most comprehensive telecom policy overhaul since 2000, responding to network quality, infrastructure sabotage, and rising consumer complaints.

   Together, these regulators are shaping a governance-first digital economy, where **trust, safety, and compliance are becoming investment prerequisites**.

Core Digital Economy Pillars Driving Growth
Nigeria's digital economy remains anchored on several high-impact sectors:

Telecommunications: The Digital Backbone
Telecoms continue to provide the foundational infrastructure for digital growth, with sector output estimated at **8 trillion annually**. Rising data consumption, 5G rollout, satellite broadband initiatives, and fibre expansion are increasing pressure on regulators to protect infrastructure and enforce quality-of-service standards.

In Q2 2026:

- The NCC mandated **compensation for over 75 million subscribers** affected by poor network quality.

- Operators were directed to simplify tariff structures for transparency.
- Renewed calls intensified for telecom networks to be designated **Critical National Infrastructure**.

Fintech and Digital Payments: Scale Meets Scrutiny
Nigeria remains Africa's leading fintech hub, with digital payments, agency banking, and mobile money driving financial inclusion.
However, regulatory attention has expanded to **previously under-regulated segments**, including:

- **Airtime credit and data advance services**, now estimated between **N300 billion and N400 billion annually**, with some projections stretching higher.
- Approximately **40 million Nigerians** rely on these micro-credit services, elevating them from fringe products to systemic digital infrastructure.

Q2 2026 saw:

- Regulatory intervention by the FCCPC under DEON lending rules.
- Temporary service suspensions by telecom operators.
- A federal move to **localise the market**, licensing indigenous fintechs and reducing capital flight.
- Industry calls for the NCC to assume clearer jurisdictional leadership to avoid regulatory overlap.

Data Protection, Cybersecurity and Trust Deficit
As data becomes the currency of Nigeria's digital economy, **privacy breaches, cyber threats, and weak governance frameworks** are emerging as material risks.

NDPC's Expanding Role
The NDPC is repositioning Nigeria from awareness to enforcement:

- Training and certifying **over 4,000 Data Protection Officers (DPOs)** in collaboration with NIMC.
- Rolling out Technical and Organisational Measures (TOMs) audits across MDAs.
- Leading continental discussions on data sovereignty and cross-border data governance.

Compliance failures now carry penalties of **up to N10 million or 2% of annual gross revenue**, reinforcing accountability across sectors from fintech to healthcare.

NITDA and the Push for a Digital Economy Act
As digital activities cut across finance, telecoms, healthcare, AI, and e-government, pressure is mounting for a **comprehensive Digital Economy Act** to harmonise Nigeria's fragmented regulatory landscape.

The proposed National Digital Economy and E-Governance Bill—expected to advance further—would:

- Empower NITDA with AI risk classification authority.
- Mandate algorithmic transparency and auditability.
- Establish clearer coordination across regulators to reduce compliance bottlenecks for startups and investors.

NCC's Policy Reset and Infrastructure Protection Mandate
In Q2 2026, the NCC intensified efforts to modernise Nigeria's telecom governance:

- Reviewing the **2000 National Telecommunications Policy** to align with digital economy realities.
- Implementing the **Spectrum Roadmap (2026–2030)** to lower connectivity costs and boost broadband penetration.
- Addressing fibre vandalism, access denial, and infrastructure sabotage that threaten service reliability.

With over **23 million Nigerians still underserved**, digital inclusion remains both an economic and political imperative.

Outlook: Regulation as the New Growth Currency
Nigeria's digital economy is no longer driven by innovation alone. **Regulatory clarity, infrastructure security, data protection, and consumer trust** are now central to sustaining growth and attracting long-term investment.
As Nigeria targets a **$1 trillion GDP economy**, the digital sector's role as a stabilising pillar has never been more pronounced. The challenge for Q2 2026 and beyond is clear: **align innovation with regulation, scale with safety, and growth with accountability**.

Wema Bank and ALAT power Nigeria's digital economy in Q2 2026 with strong profits, innovation and inclusion

• Wema Bank, ALAT Drive Profit Surge and Digital Economy Impact in Q2 2026

Nigeria's Banking Sector in Transition
Nigeria's banking industry in 2026 is in the midst of a structural reset, driven by aggressive recapitalisation requirements and broader macroeconomic reforms led by the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN). While Tier-1 banks continue to dominate total assets, Tier-2 and digital-first institutions are emerging as leaders in profitability, innovation, and return on investment.

Sector-Wide Snapshot

- **CBN Recapitalisation Mandate:** Commercial banks with national licences are required to meet a minimum N200 billion capital base—a benchmark already surpassed by Wema Bank Plc well ahead of schedule.
- **Asset Expansion:** Industry assets continue to expand across the top commercial banks, with Tier-1 players retaining scale advantages.
- **Regulatory Pressures:** Higher credit costs, stricter loan provisioning, and a Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) of 45% have moderated sector-wide bottom-line growth.

Wema Bank's Rise as a Tier-2 Powerhouse
Once considered a smaller market player, Wema Bank Plc has transformed into one of Nigeria's most compelling banking growth stories, powered by strong retail performance and its digital subsidiary, ALAT by Wema.

Recent Performance Highlights

- **Gross Earnings:** Rose sharply to 669.59 billion, reflecting strong double-digit growth.
- **Profitability:** Profit After Tax surged by **125.36%** to N194.46 billion.
- **Asset Growth:** Total assets expanded towards the N5.23 trillion mark.
- **Capital Strength:** Capital Adequacy Ratio closed at a robust **28.05%**, well above regulatory thresholds.

This strong financial showing has also translated into investor confidence, with Wema Bank shares emerging among the more profitable banking stocks on the Nigerian Exchange.

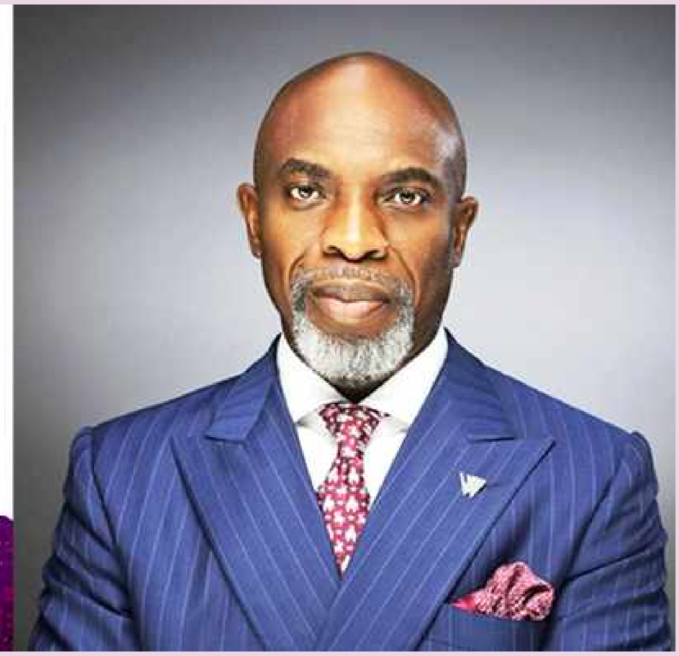
Q2 2026: Sustained Growth and Digital Momentum
In Q2 2026, Wema Bank sustained its growth trajectory, maintaining strong liquidity and profitability following record-breaking full-year results.

Capital and Balance Sheet Strength
Having exceeded the N200 billion recapitalisation requirement early, the bank's strengthened balance sheet enabled expanded digital lending, transaction processing, and infrastructure investments.

ALAT's 9th Anniversary Milestone
ALAT by Wema marked its **9th anniversary in May 2026**, reinforcing its leadership in digital banking innovation. Engagement-led initiatives such as **"ALAT Wrapped"** and reward-based challenges helped gamify banking, deepen customer loyalty, and drive transaction volumes across its growing user base.

Driving Nigeria's Digital Economy
Wema Bank and ALAT are now central contributors to Nigeria's digital economy, which accounts for over **19% of national GDP**.

MSME Empowerment
The bank has made small businesses a strategic priority, earning global recognition for its digital SME lending solutions. Through tailored business accounts and integrated collection platforms, Wema Bank continues to simplify operations and unlock growth for entrepreneurs.



Youth and Skills Development
The **FGN/ALAT Digital Skill-Novation Programme** stands out as a flagship public-private partnership, targeting the training of **2 million youths and 1 million MSMEs** in digital and technology skills, while providing access to innovation hubs nationwide.

Financial Inclusion at Scale
By enabling fully digital account opening, payments, savings, and credit access without branch visits, ALAT continues to onboard unbanked and underbanked Nigerians into the formal financial system.

Leadership Anchored on Transformation
Under the leadership of **Moruf Oseni**, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer, Wema Bank has sustained its innovation-led transformation. With over 25 years of experience in financial services, Oseni has been a key architect of the bank's turnaround since 2012 and played a central role in launching ALAT in 2017 as **Nigeria's first fully digital bank**.
Since launch, ALAT has evolved into a robust digital ecosystem serving individuals and businesses, with solutions spanning savings, payments, lending, and financial management.

ALAT 2.0: Redefining Digital Banking Experience

Digital innovation remains core to Wema Bank's strategy, highlighted by the rollout of **ALAT 2.0**. The upgraded platform delivers:
- Enhanced intelligence and personalization
- Greater flexibility and scalability
- Improved customer experience across retail and business segments

ALAT 2.0 has already processed over **708 million digital transactions** and supports nearly **2 million active accounts**, reinforcing Wema Bank's position as a leading digital-first institution.

Key Performance Drivers and Innovations
- **Digital Dominance:** ALAT now serves over **8 million users**, acting as a major engine for retail transactions and inclusion.
- **Revenue Growth:** Gross earnings reached N661.39 billion, supported by a **63.5% increase in interest income**.
- **Capital and Ratings:** Successful capital raise of N200 billion and an upgraded **BBB+ NG / A2 NG** rating by GCR Ratings.
- **SME and Youth Focus:** Launch of the ALAT Xplore app for teenagers and over **N62 billion** disbursed in uncollateralised loans to women-led MSMEs.

Outlook: A Digital-First Banking Blueprint
As Nigeria's digital economy deepens in 2026, Wema Bank Plc and ALAT stand out as a blueprint for how Tier-2 banks can outperform through innovation, capital strength, and inclusion-led growth.
With digital banking now firmly at the heart of national economic transformation, Wema Bank's Q2 2026 performance signals a future where technology, profitability, and social impact increasingly converge.

Galaxy Backbone at 20:

Powering Nigeria's shift from infrastructure to digital sovereignty

As Nigeria's digital economy becomes increasingly data-driven, Galaxy Backbone Limited has emerged as one of the Federal Government's most strategic digital assets. In Q2 2026, the organisation not only marked its 20th anniversary, but also accelerated its transformation from a shared infrastructure provider into a trusted national digital solutions platform. A defining moment of its 20th anniversary was the unveiling of a new corporate logo to signal Galaxy Backbone's evolution from an infrastructure provider into a full-spectrum digital solutions company.

Operating under the Federal Ministry of Communications, Innovation and Digital Economy, Galaxy Backbone (GBB) is repositioning Nigeria to compete in a global digital economy where data sovereignty, cloud trust, and platform reliability now define national competitiveness.

Leadership Driving a New Digital Vision

Under the leadership of Ibrahim Adepoju Adeyanju, Managing Director/CEO, Galaxy Backbone has adopted a bold, future-facing mandate: move Nigeria from being merely an infrastructure host to a provider of integrated digital solutions.

This vision aligns with Nigeria's broader ambition to treat digital infrastructure not as a cost centre, but as an economic growth engine powering governance, innovation, and productivity across all sectors.

From Connectivity to Capability: A Strategic Pivot

As Galaxy Backbone celebrates two decades of operations, its strategy has shifted decisively from building infrastructure to maximising digital assets.

Key Strategic Pillars

- Smart Digital Economy Roadmap: Optimising existing fibre, data centres, and cloud platforms to drive citizen participation, sub-national adoption, and enterprise productivity.
- Leadership in Emerging Technologies: Preparing Nigeria to shape, not just consume, innovations in AI, cloud computing, and digital platforms.
- Digital Sovereignty Mandate: Accelerating the migration of Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) from foreign-hosted environments to secure local platforms.

Core Shared Services Powering Government Digitalisation

Galaxy Backbone remains the backbone of Nigeria's digital public infrastructure, delivering scalable and resilient platforms that eliminate duplication and reduce IT costs across government.

Key Platforms and Assets

- 1Government Cloud: A unified cloud environment enabling MDAs and state governments to deploy applications, collaboration tools, and secure email (GovMail) without building standalone infrastructure.
- Tier III & Tier IV Data Centres: Uptime-certified facilities in Abuja and Kano supporting mission-critical government workloads and disaster recovery.
- National Fibre Backbone: Metro and backbone fibre spanning nearly 30 states, forming the foundation for e-government, secure connectivity, and inter-agency collaboration.
- Enterprise Digital Solutions: Secure internet services, unified communications, and call centre platforms for public institutions and businesses.


Q2 2026 Performance: Scaling Digital Public Infrastructure

By Q2 2026, Galaxy Backbone had:

- Expanded its fibre-optic footprint to nearly 30 states
- Recorded increased onboarding of MDAs onto shared cloud platforms
- Strengthened its position as the secure core of Nigeria's Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) \
- Advanced implementation of its four-year Integrated Digital Transformation Strategy (IDTS)

These milestones reflect a deliberate shift toward Government-as-a-Platform (GaaP), unifying fragmented IT systems into a single, interoperable national framework.

Championing Localisation and Cloud Sovereignty

With data now central to national development, Galaxy Backbone has made cloud sovereignty a defining priority.

Key Sovereignty Initiatives

- Localised Hosting: Sovereign data hosted within Nigeria through Tier III and Tier IV facilities to reduce exposure to foreign disruptions and geopolitical risks.
- Startup Cloud Enablement: In partnership with NITDA, GBB is onboarding startups from programmes such as iHatch and ONDI onto the Galaxy Cloud Platform (GxCP) with subsidised hosting, strengthening indigenous innovation.

This localisation push is positioning Nigeria to retain economic value from its data while building long-term digital trust.

Building Trust as a National Platform Provider

Trust remains the currency of the data economy. Galaxy Backbone reinforces confidence through globally recognised standards and operational discipline.

Trust and Reliability Framework

- International Certifications: ISO 27001 (Information Security), ISO 20000 (IT Service Management), ISO 22301 (Business Continuity), ISO 9001 (Quality Management).
- High Availability: Dual Tier III and Tier IV architecture ensuring enterprise-grade uptime and resilience.
- Industry Recognition: Recipient of the NET5.5G Pioneer Award and recognition in the Federal Government Website Performance Scorecard by the Bureau of Public Service Reforms.

Positioning Nigeria for the Data Economy Era

As Nigeria's digital economy deepens, Galaxy Backbone is evolving into more than an IT agency—it is becoming a strategic national digital platform, enabling governance reform, enterprise productivity, innovation ecosystems, and economic resilience.

By promoting shared infrastructure, sovereign cloud adoption, and trusted digital platforms, GBB is helping Nigeria transition from infrastructure ownership to digital value creation, a shift critical to long-term national development.

MOFI in Q2 2026: Unlocking national asset value for **Nigeria's digital economy**

In Q2 2026, **Ministry of Finance Incorporated (MOFI)** emerged as one of the most consequential institutions shaping Nigeria's digital economy—quietly but decisively redefining how public assets, private capital, and technology intersect in national development.

Under the innovative leadership of its Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer, **Armstrong Ume Takang**, MOFI has evolved from a passive custodian of government shareholdings into a **globally benchmarked sovereign investment and asset optimisation platform**, with ambitions to scale into a **$40 billion public-private investment powerhouse**.

Operating under the Federal Ministry of Finance, MOFI is now central to Nigeria's shift from economic stabilisation to expansion—using data, governance reform, and strategic investments to unlock long-dormant national value.

From Custodian to Catalyst: MOFI's Institutional Transformation

Since February 2023, MOFI has undergone a landmark repositioning. Once known primarily as a holding entity for government equity, it is now an **active asset manager and principal investment vehicle** focused on value creation, capital mobilisation, and institutional reform.

This transformation has placed MOFI at the heart of Nigeria's digital economy—bridging **public digital infrastructure**, **indigenous technology capacity**, and **private-sector capital** to scale innovation and productivity across sectors.

Data as Infrastructure: Project Lighthouse and Revenue Intelligence

A defining pillar of MOFI's Q2 2026 strategy is the deployment of **Project Lighthouse**, a large-scale big data analytics engine aggregating financial and non-financial data across government agencies.

- **Integrated national data visibility:** Supporting smarter fiscal planning and revenue optimisation
- **Evidence-based investment decisions:** Enabling data-led prioritisation of digital and infrastructure investments
- **Digital governance backbone:** Positioning data as a core

national economic asset

Project Lighthouse signals MOFI's belief that **data integration is foundational to Nigeria's digital economy**.

Rebuilding GOEs for the Digital Age

MOFI is driving one of the most ambitious corporate governance reforms in Nigeria's public sector history.

Key Governance Interventions

- **Corporate Governance Scorecards:** Introducing independent evaluations and performance metrics across Government-Owned Enterprises (GOEs)
- **Investor-Ready Restructuring:** Digitising operations and financial reporting to attract private and tech-sector capital
- **MOFI Corporate Governance Excellence Awards:** Launched in Q2 2026 to institutionalise transparency, accountability, and performance culture

These reforms are repositioning GOEs as **credible partners for digital, infrastructure, and technology investments**.

Mobilising Capital for Digital and Physical Infrastructure

MOFI's Q2 2026 agenda reflects a clear shift from ownership to **capital activation**.

Key Investment Platforms

- **National Assets Register (NAR):** A comprehensive, data-driven inventory of federal assets, bringing long-overdue visibility to what Nigeria owns
- **MOFI Real Estate Investment Fund (MREIF):** A ₦1 trillion blended-finance vehicle unlocking pension and private capital for affordable housing and long-term mortgages
- **Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs):** Structuring investment-ready projects across infrastructure, technology, and innovation-driven sectors

These platforms are designed to crowd in private capital while reducing fiscal pressure on government.

MOFI and the Digital Infrastructure Ecosystem

Within Nigeria's digital economy, MOFI plays a catalytic role by enabling strategic alignment between government-owned technology assets and emerging private innovators.

This includes integration with public digital infrastructure providers such as **Galaxy Backbone Limited**, strengthening the ecosystem that underpins cloud services, data centres, fibre connectivity, and e-government platforms.

By aligning investment strategy with digital infrastructure, MOFI is ensuring that **technology becomes an engine of national productivity**, not just a support function.

Sectoral Impact: Agriculture, Housing and Inclusive Growth

MOFI's Q2 2026 interventions extend beyond technology into sectors critical to inclusive development:

- **Agriculture & Food Security:** Continued restructuring of the Presidential Fertiliser Initiative (PFI) to boost local production, secure raw materials, and lower input costs
- **Sustainable Integrated Productive Communities (SIPC):** Advancing partnerships with states such as Niger State to develop self-sustaining zones combining housing, agriculture, and renewable energy
- **Affordable Housing Finance:** Scaling long-term mortgage access through MREIF to support urbanisation and economic mobility

These initiatives demonstrate how **digital tools, capital markets, and governance reform intersect** to deliver real-sector outcomes.

Leadership Anchored in Digital Policy Experience

Dr. Takang brings deep credibility to MOFI's digital ambitions. He previously served as Chairman of the Nigeria National ICT Strategic Action Plan Committee and the National Software Development Task Force—contributing to foundational ICT and digital economy reforms.

This background has enabled MOFI to engage confidently in national and regional technology policy discussions, including strategic participation at platforms such as the **West Africa Convergence Conference (WACC)**.

Outlook: MOFI as a Strategic Engine of National Development

By Q2 2026, MOFI had firmly positioned itself as more than an asset manager. It is now a **strategic economic platform**, unlocking national asset value, mobilising private capital, strengthening digital infrastructure, and embedding good governance across public enterprises.

As Nigeria's digital economy becomes central to growth, competitiveness, and jobs, MOFI's role as the **financial architect of national development** is set to deepen.

NITDA's Q2 2026 momentum:

steering Nigeria's digital economy towards AI governance and regulatory harmony

Nigeria's digital economy entered a defining phase in Q2 2026 as the National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA) intensified its dual role as both development catalyst and digital regulator. Under the leadership of **Kashifu Inuwa Abdullahi**, the agency recorded strong performance milestones while advancing its **Strategic Roadmap and Action Plan (SRAP 2.0)**: a framework now central to Nigeria's ambitions around artificial intelligence (AI), cloud sovereignty, and digital public infrastructure.

As digital activity deepens across finance, telecommunications, healthcare, artificial intelligence, and e-government, momentum is also building for a **comprehensive National Digital Economy and E-Governance Bill**, expected to significantly expand NITDA's statutory authority and harmonise Nigeria's fragmented regulatory landscape.

SRAP 2.0: NITDA's Execution Engine for Digital Transformation

NITDA's SRAP 2.0 has emerged as a practical execution framework for Nigeria's digital economy goals, prioritising inclusion, resilience, and innovation at scale.

Digital Public Infrastructure and E-Government Integration

In Q2 2026, NITDA consolidated its leadership of the **Nigeria Government Enterprise Architecture (NGEA)**, strengthening interoperability across federal ministries, departments, and agencies. This move is reshaping e-government delivery by reducing duplication, improving service integration, and laying the foundation for scalable Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI).

Cloud Sovereignty and Local Value Retention

Through the **National Cloud First Guidelines**, NITDA accelerated efforts to localise critical national data and digital services. The policy aims to reduce dependence on dollar-denominated foreign cloud platforms, shield startups from foreign exchange volatility, and retain digital economic value within Nigeria.

AI and Emerging Technologies

NITDA's Q2 agenda firmly positioned Nigeria as a leading voice in **AI governance in Africa**. Beyond adoption, the agency is shaping policy blueprints that integrate AI into workforce development, productivity growth, and national socio-economic planning.

Why Nigeria Needs a Digital Economy Act

As digital services increasingly overlap across regulated sectors, Nigeria's current legal framework is showing strain. Startups and investors continue to navigate overlapping rules across financial services, telecoms, data protection, and digital platforms.

In response, NITDA and industry stakeholders are advocating for a **unified Digital Economy Act**, designed to modernise governance, reduce compliance friction, and provide regulatory certainty.

How the National Digital Economy and E-Governance

Bill Empowers NITDA
The proposed legislation significantly expands NITDA's mandate, positioning the agency as the **central coordinating authority—or "super-regulator"**—for Nigeria's digital market.

1. **AI Risk Classification Authority**

Under the bill, NITDA gains statutory power to classify AI systems based on societal risk:

- **High-risk sectors** such as finance, public administration, surveillance, and automated decision-making face mandatory registration and licensing.
- **Enforcement powers** include system restrictions, platform blocks, and penalties of up to ₦10 million or 2% of annual turnover.
- **Regulatory sandboxes** allow controlled experimentation for early-stage AI innovations.

2. **Algorithmic Transparency and Auditability**

To address rising concerns around algorithmic bias and opaque automated decisions, the bill mandates:

- **Explainable AI (XAI)** requirements for systems impacting citizens' rights or financial outcomes.
- **Independent annual AI audits**, supported by a new class of accredited AI auditors.
- **Human-in-the-loop safeguards** for high-impact automated systems.

3. **Inter-Regulator Coordination and Startup Protection**

The bill introduces formal mechanisms to reduce regulatory overlap:

- **Harmonised compliance** across NITDA, the **Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC)**, the **Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN)**, the **Nigeria Data Protection Commission (NDPC)**, and the **Office of the National Security Adviser (ONSA)**.
- A **Multistakeholder Coordination Group** to shorten approval timelines for startups.
- **Investor certainty**, replacing fragmented rules with a single national benchmark.

Positioning Nigeria as an African Leader in AI Regulation
With the Digital Economy and E-Governance Bill advancing through legislative stages, Nigeria is on track to become one of the **first African countries with a comprehensive, enforceable AI governance framework**. NITDA's approach balances innovation with public trust—anchoring growth in accountability, transparency, and coordinated oversight.

Outlook: Q3 2026 and Beyond
NITDA's Q2 2026 performance confirms its evolution from a technology development agency into a **core pillar of Nigeria's digital economic governance**. By aligning SRAP 2.0 with emerging legislation, the agency is shaping a regulatory environment that supports startups, attracts investment, and ensures Nigeria's digital economy scales responsibly.
As digital transformation accelerates, the passage of the National Digital Economy and E-Governance Act may well define the next decade of Nigeria's technology-driven growth.

NDPC in Q2 2026: From awareness to enforcement as Nigeria's data economy **takes centre stage**

Nigeria's Data Regulator Enters a New Enforcement Era

In the second quarter of 2026, the **Nigeria Data Protection Commission (NDPC)** firmly repositioned Nigeria's data governance framework from privacy awareness to full-scale enforcement, reflecting the growing centrality of data to national development.

Led by its innovative National Commissioner and CEO, **Dr. Vincent Olatunji**, the Commission recorded one of its most impactful quarters since the enactment of the Nigeria Data Protection Act (NDPA) 2023—strengthening digital trust, securing public infrastructure, and aligning Nigeria with global data governance standards.

Building Nigeria's Data Protection Workforce at Scale

A major Q2 highlight was NDPC's unprecedented human capital drive in partnership with the National Identity Management Commission (NIMC).

- **Over 4,000 Data Protection Officers (DPOs trained):** Public sector personnel were enrolled through the NDPC Virtual Privacy Academy, significantly boosting institutional data-handling capacity.
- **Protecting national identity infrastructure:** The initiative directly strengthens safeguards around the National Identification Number (NIN) database, which contains sensitive data of over 120 million Nigerians.
- **Positioning Nigeria as a privacy talent hub:** Parallel DPO certification programmes in Abuja and Lagos addressed the global shortage of certified privacy professionals.

This large-scale workforce development signals Nigeria's ambition to lead Africa's emerging data economy.

Mandatory TOMs Audits Across MDAs

To secure public digital infrastructure, the NDPC rolled out Technical and Organisational Measures (TOMs) audits across Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs).

- **Hands-on technical drills:** IT administrators underwent live simulations to test resilience against cyber threats.
- **Mandatory system upgrades:** Agencies were compelled to overhaul legacy systems handling citizens' data.
- **Top-level government buy-in:** Collaboration with the Office of the Head of the Civil Service ensured Permanent Secretaries and agency heads were directly involved.

This marks a shift toward proactive data governance within Nigeria's e-government framework.

Enforcement Takes Centre Stage as Penalties Begin to Bite

Q2 2026 also marked the end of regulatory leniency. Backed by the General Application and Implementation Directive (GAID), the NDPC moved

decisively into enforcement mode.

- **N7.2 billion generated** from compliance fees, registrations, and penalties.
- **High-impact sanctions:** Non-compliant entities now face fines of up to N10 million or 2% of annual gross revenue.
- **High-profile investigations:** Formal probes were launched into data breaches involving major platforms, including Remita and Sterling Bank.
- **Compliance deadlines enforced:** Extended 2025 Compliance Audit Returns (CARs) closed on May 30, 2026, followed by immediate sanctions for defaulters.

Data protection compliance has now become a material corporate and financial risk.

Reducing Compliance Bottlenecks for Corporates and Big Tech

While tightening enforcement, the NDPC also streamlined compliance pathways for large enterprises and digital platforms.

- Cross-sector MoUs: Partnerships with the Bureau of Public Procurement and the Chartered Institute of Project Management of Nigeria embedded privacy into project lifecycles.
- Sub-national harmonisation: A landmark agreement with the Nigeria Governors' Forum aligned data standards across all 36 states.
- Digital sovereignty measures: Mandatory adoption of *.ng* domains for compliant organisations strengthened national data oversight.

These measures reduce regulatory friction while maintaining firm control over data governance.

Nigeria Emerges as Africa's Data Governance Reference Point

In Q2 2026, Nigeria assumed a continental leadership role in data sovereignty and cross-border governance.

- Continental coordination: NDPC played a central role at the Network of Africa Data Protection Authorities (NADPA) AGM in Abidjan.
- Cross-regional peer exchange: In collaboration with the World Bank and Smart Africa, Nigeria hosted regulators from nine African countries to pilot frameworks for cross-border data flows under AfCFTA.

Nigeria is increasingly exporting a "Nigerian model" of data regulation across Africa.

Data Protection as an Economic Asset

Beyond regulation, NDPC's Q2 performance underscores data protection as an economic growth lever:

- 23,000 jobs created across Nigeria's data ecosystem.
- Enhanced investor confidence through predictable enforcement and sovereign data controls.
- Future-proofing innovation: Introduction of AI System Impact Assessments ensures ethical deployment of advanced data-processing technologies.

Outlook: Securing Trust in Nigeria's Digital Economy

By Q2 2026, the Nigeria Data Protection Commission had decisively transformed data privacy from a compliance checkbox into a strategic national asset. Through enforcement, workforce development, and continental leadership, the NDPC is anchoring trust, investment, and innovation in Nigeria's fast-expanding digital economy.

ipNX at the heart of **national broadband** and **digital growth**

In Nigeria's Q2 2026 digital economy landscape, **ipNX Nigeria** has emerged as one of the country's most influential ICT and infrastructure players—anchoring broadband expansion, accelerating digital inclusion, and reinforcing Nigeria's ambition to build a resilient, innovation-driven economy projected at **$18.3 billion**.

Under the leadership of an innovative and dynamic **Ejovi Aror**, ipNX recorded an impressive Q2 performance, marked by rapid network expansion, strategic policy alignment, and deepening relevance to national development priorities.

Visionary Leadership Driving Digital Transformation

ipNX's growth trajectory in Q2 reflects the strength of its executive leadership team, which continues to position the company as a premier internet, fiber, and managed services provider in Nigeria.

With a clear focus on future-ready infrastructure, Ejovi Aror's leadership has reinforced ipNX's role not just as a connectivity provider, but as a critical enabler of e-government services, digital healthcare, smart enterprises, and Nigeria's broader digital transformation agenda.

Infrastructure and Policy Leadership

Broadband Expansion Across Strategic Regions

During the quarter, ipNX significantly expanded its enterprise and consumer fiber footprint, with targeted deployments across **Northern Nigeria**, including **Katsina, Kano, and Kaduna**. These expansions are designed to support priority sectors such as e-government platforms, digital healthcare delivery, and financial inclusion.

Aligning with Project BRIDGE

ipNX deepened its alignment with federal broadband initiatives, particularly **Project BRIDGE** under the Ministry of Communications, Innovation and Digital Economy. By adopting an **open-access fiber model**, the company is helping to reduce connectivity costs, improve last-mile access, and stimulate wider digital adoption across states.

This broadband momentum complements national funding and policy coordination efforts driven by **Ministry of Finance Incorporated (MOFI)**, which is unlocking long-term capital to support nationwide digital infrastructure rollout.

Championing Critical National Infrastructure Protection

At the policy level, ipNX executives continued to advocate strongly for the enforcement of **Critical National Information Infrastructure (CNII)** protections—aimed at reducing service disruptions, safeguarding telecom assets, and stabilising nationwide connectivity.

Commitment to Inclusive Growth Beyond infrastructure, ipNX intensified its focus on **STEM advocacy and gender inclusion**, supporting women in technology through targeted webinars and initiatives aimed at closing Nigeria's persistent tech gender gap.

Accelerating National Fiber Expansion

ipNX continues to scale its **Fiber-to-the-Home (FTTH)** and **Fiber-to-the-Premises (FTTX)** deployments nationwide. Backed by support from **U.S. Trade and Development Agency (USTDA)** and aligned with Project BRIDGE, the expansion spans major commercial hubs while pushing aggressively into underserved regions.

Key Expansion Targets

- **Northern Nigeria:** A landmark Memorandum of Understanding signed with the Katsina State Government, with further growth planned for Kano, Kaduna, and Yobe.
- **Lagos and Southern Hubs:** Continued network densification across residential estates and SME clusters, supported by community engagement initiatives such as the Omole Phase 2 End-of-Year Carnival.

Network Capability Upgrades

ipNX deployed major infrastructure upgrades during the quarter, including its ultra-fast **Xtreme 1000 broadband tier**, delivering speeds of up to **1Gbps** for data-intensive households and smart homes.

Strategic Regulatory Collaboration

The company worked closely with the **Nigerian Communications Commission** and CCG Consulting to advance "**Dig-Once**" policies, streamlining fiber deployment and reducing right-of-way bottlenecks.

Service Portfolio Supporting Nigeria's Digital Economy

- **Residential Broadband:** Plans begin at 10Mbps, scaling up to 1Gbps for heavy users, remote workers, and smart homes.
- **Business and Enterprise Solutions:** Scalable connectivity, dedicated internet access, and data centre services tailored to SMEs, corporates, and public sector institutions.

Central to Nigeria's Digital Development Story

As Q2 2026 closes, ipNX's expanding footprint, policy engagement, and ecosystem leadership underscore its growing centrality to Nigeria's digital economy. With broadband now recognised as a foundational enabler of productivity, governance, and innovation, ipNX is firmly positioned as a strategic infrastructure partner in Nigeria's journey toward sustainable national development and long-term economic growth.

RECOGNITION CEREMONY FOR THE 50 MOST INFLUENTIAL FIGURES IN NIGERIA'S DIGITAL ECONOMY, FEATURING CITATION AND AWARD PRESENTATIONS

Where Nigeria's digital future, policy and leadership converge

For over two decades, the **West Africa Convergence Conference (WACC)** has remained one of Nigeria's most enduring and influential platforms for shaping national conversations at the intersection of technology, policy, investment and governance. On **Thursday, June 25, 2026**, that legacy continues as the **15th WACC** convenes alongside the **50 Most Influential Figures in Nigeria's Digital Economy** at the Providence Hotel, Ikeja GRA, Lagos.

More than an annual gathering, WACC has evolved into a national institution—one that consistently bridges government policy with private-sector innovation, and political vision with technological execution. At a time when Nigeria is preparing for a new political and economic cycle (2027–2031), WACC 2026 is positioned as a strategic forum for defining how digital innovation will drive inclusive growth, competitiveness and national resilience. According to Chairman of WACC 2026 Committee, Dr. Sola Afolabi, the conference remains critical to shaping dialogue on digital transformation and economic development.

Setting the Agenda for Nigeria's Next Digital Era

WACC 2026 brings together a high-level collegiate of policymakers, regulators, technology leaders, investors, state governments and ecosystem builders to interrogate how digital transformation can power Nigeria's development agenda in the years ahead.

The keynote and headline Policy Colloquium will be delivered by **Prof Nentawe Yilwatda**, National Chairman of the All Progressives Congress (APC), under the theme:

"Leveraging Technology for Development in Nigeria, 2027–2031: Delivering the Renewed Hope Agenda."

A respected academic, digital systems engineer and

Theme:

Reworking Nigeria Progressively into the Digital Economy with Emerging Digital Tools

Date: Thursday, 25 June 2026 | **Time:** 9:00 am Prompt
Venue: The Providence Hotel,12A Oba Akinjobi Way, Ikeja GRA, Lagos

NATIONAL ANTHEM

Nigeria, we hail thee,
Our own dear native land,
Though tribes and tongues may differ
In brotherhood we stand,
Nigerians all, and proud to serve
Our sovereign Motherland.

Our flag shall be a symbol
That truth and justice reign,
In peace or battle honour'd,
And this we count as gain,
To hand on to our children
A banner without stain.

O God of all creation,
Grant this our one request.
Help us to build a nation
Where no man is oppressed,
And so with peace and plenty
Nigeria may be blessed.

THE PLEDGE

I Pledge to Nigeria my country
To be faithful, loyal and honest
To serve Nigeria with all my strength
To defend her unity
And uphold her Honour and Glory

Programme of Event

Activities	Time
Guest Arrival & Registration	9:30 – 10:00 a.m.
Opening Session (15 Minutes) • **Welcome Address** **Dr. Sola Afolabi** Chairman, WACC 2026 • **Industry Remarks** **Mr. Tony Izuagbe Emoekpere** President, Association of Telecommunications Companies of Nigeria (ATCON)	10:00 – 10:15 a.m.
Keynote Focus Address (40 Minutes) **Prof. Nentawe Yilwatda** National Chairman, All Progressives Congress (APC) **Topic:** Leveraging Technology for Development in Nigeria, 2027–2031: Delivering the Renewed Hope Agenda	10:15 – 10:55 a.m.
Short Statements by Industry Operators (10 Minutes) Brief strategic reflections from select ecosystem leaders	10:55 – 11:00 a.m.
Investment & Institutional Pitch – Government Portfolio (15 Minutes) **Dr. Armstrong Ume Takang** Chief Executive Officer, Ministry of Finance Incorporated (MOFI) **Focus:** Mobilising Federal Assets, Capital and Partnerships for Nigeria's Digital Economy	11:00 – 11:15 a.m.
Executive Regulatory Insights (20 Minutes) • **Dr. Vincent Olatunji** National Commissioner / CEO, Nigeria Data Protection Commission (NDPC)	11:15 – 11:35 a.m.

Activities	Time
Topic: From Awareness to Accountability: Strengthening Data Protection Compliance in Nigeria's Digital Economy	
• **Kashifu Inuwa Abdullahi, CCIE** Director General / CEO, National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA)	
Topic: Digital Convergence and the Confidence Mandate: NITDA's Vision for a Competitive, Innovative and Trusted Nigerian IT Ecosystem	
Operators' Strategic Insights (40 Minutes)	
• **Muhammed Rudman** MD/CEO, Internet Exchange Point of Nigeria (IXPN) **Building a Resilient Digital Infrastructure: IXPN's Role in Strengthening Nigeria's Digital Economy**	11:35 – 12:15 p.m.
• **Engr. Ike Nnamani** CEO, Digital Realty Nigeria Data Centres and Growth Policies: An Operator's Perspective	
• **Aishat Lewis** CEO, Arise Fund **Skills, Jobs and Offshore Capital: Solving Nigeria's Talent Funding Gap for Scalable Employment Outcomes**	
• **Dr. Yele Okeremi** CEO, PFS Ltd **"Convergence in Action: How Digital Payments Infrastructure is Reshaping Nigeria's Telecoms - Financial Services Landscape".**	
Institutional Spotlight: Wema Bank (5 Minutes)	12:15 – 12:20 p.m.
WACC 2026 Wrap-Up & Media Interaction (10 Minutes)	12:20– 12:25 p.m.
Report Presentation (5 Minutes) WACC – IT Edge News.Africa Q2 2026 Digital Economy Report	12:25 – 12:30 p.m.
Recognition Ceremony (48 Minutes) 50 Most Influential Figures in Nigeria's Digital Economy – 2026	12:30 – 01:18 p.m.
Sign-Off Remarks (2 Minutes) Olusegun Oruame: Chief Executive Officer, Knowhow Media	1:18 – 01:20 p.m.
Networking Lunch & Close of Event	1:20 – 2:00 p.m.

policymaker, Prof. Yilwatda brings over two decades of hands-on experience in large-scale ICT and digital transformation projects. He has described WACC as a timely, non-partisan platform for aligning political leadership, policy intent and technological capability ahead of the post-2027 dispensation.

Investment, Assets and the Digital Economy

A major highlight of WACC 2026 is the strong focus on investment, partnerships and capital mobilisation for the digital economy. Leading this conversation is **Ministry of Finance Incorporated (MOFI)**, with its Managing Director/CEO, **Dr. Armstrong Ume Takang**, headlining discussions on innovation-led investment frameworks.

MOFI's participation underscores its repositioning as an active catalyst for digital infrastructure financing, public–private partnerships, and technology-enabled growth. From backing indigenous fintech innovation to integrating government-owned digital assets such as Galaxy Backbone, MOFI's engagement reflects the growing convergence of public finance and digital transformation.

Regulators Framing Trust, Security and Compliance

Trust and regulation remain foundational to a sustainable digital economy. WACC 2026 will feature Executive Regulatory Addresses from Nigeria's leading digital regulators.

Nigeria Data Protection Commission (NDPC), led by **Vincent Olatunji**, will examine the transition "From Awareness to Accountability" in data protection—particularly as Nigeria navigates AI adoption, digital identity and election-year data risks.

Similarly, **National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA)**, under **Kashifu Inuwa Abdullahi**, will outline priorities around digital infrastructure, talent development, innovation-driven regulation and public–private collaboration—areas critical to both economic growth and democratic resilience.

Operators, Infrastructure and the Digital Backbone

From the operators' perspective, WACC 2026 will spotlight the infrastructure powering Nigeria's digital economy. **Digital Realty Nigeria**, represented by its Managing Director **Ikechukwu Nnamani**, will lead discussions on the strategic role of data centres in scaling digital services, attracting global capital and enabling local content hosting. **Aishat Lewis,** CEO of Arise Fund, leads a strategic dialogue on talent funding, job creation, and offshore capital as catalysts for scalable employment. **Dr. Yele Okeremi,** CEO of PFS Ltd, offers an incisive perspective on the convergence of digital payments, telecoms, and financial services as Nigeria's next frontier of economic integration.

Honouring the Architects of Nigeria's Digital Economy

A defining feature of WACC is its celebration of excellence. The **50 Most Influential Figures in Nigeria's Digital Economy** honours individuals and institutions driving innovation, capacity building and sector-wide growth. Often described as the digital economy's "Oscars," the awards recognise those laying the foundations for Nigeria's digital future across policy, infrastructure, entrepreneurship and regulation.

According to **Olusegun Oruame**, CEO of **Knowhow Media International**, the awards are not just about recognition, but about inspiring the next generation of digital pathfinders and reinforcing collaboration between political leadership, regulators and the private sector.

Why WACC 2026 Matters Now

With ICT contributing over 18% of Nigeria's GDP and global studies showing the digital economy's potential to add tens of billions of dollars to national output in the coming decade, WACC 2026 arrives at a pivotal moment. As Nigeria approaches the 2027 elections, decisions made around technology, regulation and investment will shape economic outcomes for years to come.

WACC 2026 stands once again as the forum where **technology, policy and politics converge**—setting direction, building consensus and honouring those leading Nigeria's digital transformation across sectors.

Salvation Alibor
Founder, Xpark360 & Premium Digital Marketing Academy (PDMA)

Salvation Alibor is a distinguished Nigerian techpreneur, venture builder, startup consultant, and missionary with over 25 years of leadership across technology, enterprise development, and social impact.He is the Founder and President of Salvy VentureCorp, a venture studio focused on building and scaling innovative African businesses. Earlier in his career, he founded Syscomptech Communications Ltd and has been instrumental in technology and infrastructure ventures including CityFibre and Sairtel, contributing to the growth of Nigeria's digital and connectivity ecosystem.In the creative and digital media space, he is the Co-Founder of Xpark360 Media, an award-winning integrated marketing and media agency that gained national recognition at the 2025 LOMA Awards, winning Rising Star and Outstanding OOH Campaign. He is also Co-Founder of PDMA Technologies and Outdoors.ng, platforms that leverage technology, data, and outdoor media infrastructure to deliver innovative digital marketing and advertising solutions across Nigeria.

Through his work as a startup consultant and ecosystem builder, Salvation has supported entrepreneurs and emerging ventures across Africa in developing scalable, sustainable, and technology-driven businesses. Beyond enterprise, Salvation remains deeply committed to faith and service. For over 25 years, he has served as a Pastor and Rural Missionary, leading outreach initiatives that provide spiritual guidance, community development, and humanitarian support to underserved communities. Through his work at the intersection of technology, entrepreneurship, and social impact, Salvation Alibor continues to play a significant role in shaping Nigeria's digital economy and inspiring a new generation of innovators and leaders

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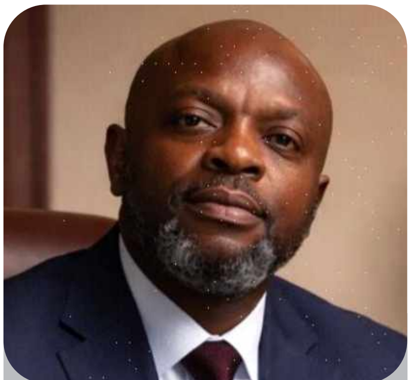
Engr. Gbenga Nana
CEO, Notion Technology Limited

Engr. Gbenga Nana is the Chief Executive Officer of Notion Technology Limited, a leading Nigerian technology company specializing in fiber optics, telecommunications solutions, and technical support services. With deep industry experience and a strong understanding of field operations, he has positioned the company as a trusted partner for engineers, businesses, and telecom providers across Nigeria.

Under his leadership, Notion Technology Limited has grown into a reputable brand known for delivering excellent reliable equipment, innovative solutions, and customer-focused support. In 2024,he was recognised by ATCON as one of the 100 leading personalities who has contributed to the development of telecommunications and digital economy in Nigeria.

He is passionate about strengthening Nigeria's telecommunications infrastructure by empowering local engineers, reducing equipment downtime through local repair solutions, and promoting high- quality standards in the industry. His vision is to build a one-stop technology hub that provides efficient, innovative, and reliable solutions that ensure customer satisfaction and long-term growth.



Engr. Gbenga Nana
Managing Director, NGCOM Network Solutions Limited

Mr. Ekeng Ewa Ekeng is a holder of a Bachelor of Science Degree in Geology from the University of Port Harcourt, Rivers State. He has an M.MBA in Telecoms from Telecoms Academy, United Kingdom and Master of Business Administration from Kingston University London, United Kingdom.

Ekeng Ewa is an expert in the ICT industry with over 25years experience in building, developing and managing business. He previously worked with Fremok Services; a Lagos based company as the Project Manager. He resigned from the services of the company in a bid to commence his own Network Support and management business in the year 2003 – Greenish Solutions Ltd.

He has implemented and project managed notable jobs and contracts with the Nigerian Ports Authority (NPA). University of Calabar, Rivers State Government, University of Africa, Bayelsa, River state Diagonistic center amongst many others. Ekeng Ewa Ekeng is a founding Partner of NGCOM Network Solutions Limited. He is a tested administrator with admirable versatility and creativity.

Gbenga Adegbiji
CEO Geniserve Limited

Gbenga Adegbiji is a Digital Infrastructure business executive with thirty years of experience in Telecoms and Digital Infrastructure. His experience spans across mobile networks, telecoms/IT infrastructure, terrestrial & subsea optic fibres, Data Centres and Project Management. He is currently the CEO of Geniserve Limited, a Digital Infrastructure company in Nigeria that is extending broadband connectivity to the unserved areas of Nigeria and the West Africa.

Prior to his role at Geniserve, Gbenga Adegbiji was the Executive Director/COO at MainOne MDXi, where he led the design, construction, and operations of West Africa's largest data center business across Nigeria, Ghana, and Ivory Coast. Under his leadership, MainOne MDXi built 4 Data Centers across West Africa and achieved 100% availability year-on-year for eight consecutive years.

Gbenga is a thought leader in Data Centre and Digital infrastructure and has espoused his thought leadership at various local and international events such as the ITW, Data Cloud Europe, Data Center Dynamics, IoT West Africa, Africa Hyperscalers, GITEX, AfPIF and many others.

He holds an Engineering degree from the University of Lagos, MBA from the Alliance Manchester Business School (AMBS), United Kingdom, and Strategy Execution from the Havard Business School (HBS).

Mr. Onochie Amasiani
MD/CEO, Trefoil Networks Limited

Onochie Amasiani is the Managing Director of Profile Networks Limited, a leading ICT and telecommunications solutions company committed to delivering innovative connectivity and digital infrastructure services across Nigeria. With extensive experience in telecommunications, network infrastructure, broadband deployment, enterprise solutions, and digital transformation, he has built a reputation as a forward-thinking technology leader dedicated to advancing Nigeria's digital economy. Over the years, Onochie has played a pivotal role in the design, deployment, and management of cutting-edge ICT solutions that enable businesses, government institutions, and communities to leverage technology for growth and efficiency. His expertise spans network engineering, broadband connectivity, enterprise communications, managed services, and strategic technology planning.

As Managing Director, he has spearheaded initiatives that strengthen digital infrastructure, improve access to reliable connectivity, and support organizations in their digital transformation journeys. His leadership has been instrumental in positioning Profile Networks Limited as a trusted provider of innovative technology solutions, delivering value-driven services that enhance productivity, foster innovation, and drive sustainable development. Passionate about technology innovation and capacity development, Onochie remains committed to promoting digital inclusion, expanding access to modern communication technologies, and contributing to the growth of Nigeria's rapidly evolving ICT ecosystem.

Dr Olusola Teniola
Director, Strategic Business Initiatives at ipNX Nigeria Limited

Dr. Olusola Teniola (HND Electrical & Electronic Engineering, B.Eng (Hons) Computer & Information Engineering (South Bank University, UK), Honorary Doctorate, DBA (Prowess University, Delaware, USA) is currently the Director, Strategic Business Initiatives at ipNX Nigeria Limited responsible for spearheading the company's growth into new markets in Nigeria, West and Central Africa and overseeing the company's MVNO Launch. Prior to joining ipNX, he worked as a Digital Development Consultant to the World Bank Group and provided his technical expertise to the Nigeria Country Private Officer (COO) responsible for deploying 870km of Digital Infrastructure in the SW of Nigeria with Oodua Infraco Resource Limited. He has held other strategic CxO roles including being the National Coordinator for the Alliance for Affordable Internet (A4ai) succeeding Dr Ernest Ndukwe and being the past President of Association of Telecommunications of Companies of Nigeria (ATCON). He has served on the board of Phase3 Telecom, Abuja. Was Client Partner for Detecon International GmBH a subsidiary of Deutche Telekom; representing their interests in Nigeria and West Africa. Mr Teniola was previously CEO/MD and member of the board of IS Internet Solutions (a Dimension Data Company) based in Lagos and was the COO and Director of Engineering at Phase3 Telecom from 2010 to 2013, where he was responsible for day-to-day operations of running the largest backbone aerial optic fiber network in Nigeria and West Africa.

Ambassador Dr. Nihinlola Fafore
Deputy Director, Huawei Technologies Nigeria Ltd

Ambassador Dr. Nihinlola Fafore is a seasoned telecommunications executive with over 15 years of experience in regulatory affairs, spectrum management, and business development. She serves as Deputy Director at Huawei Technologies Company Nigeria Limited, where she drives policy-to-market strategy, stakeholder engagement, and enterprise growth.

She has contributed to global telecom advancement through active participation in the International Telecommunication Union, World Radiocommunication Conference, and African Telecommunications Union, including supporting Nigeria's 5G approval at WRC 2019. A pioneer in Nigeria's ICT space, she is recognized as the first certified IP Call Centre Engineer in the country and played a key role in deploying the national emergency number (112).

SOJI MAURICE-DIYA
CEO| Telecommunications, Infrastructure, Technology & Logistics Executive

Soji Maurice-Diya is a seasoned executive with over 20 years of leadership across telecommunications, infrastructure, technology, and logistics. He is currently the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of NatCom Development & Investment Ltd (Ntel) successor to Nigeria's national carrier, Nigerian Telecommunications Limited (Nitel). Appointed in 2025, he currently leads the company's revitalisation by unlocking value from legacy telecom infrastructure, thereby repositioning Ntel for growth within the digital ecosystem in alignment with Nigeria's digital transformation agenda. Soji's focus is anchored on building an investor-centric enterprise and strengthening the company's role as a critical enabler of national connectivity.

In addition to his role at Ntel, Soji serves as a Director of Traxport Rail Services Limited, a special purpose vehicle authorized to operate the 1,500 km Lagos–Kano freight corridor. Traxport is pioneering the modernization of Nigeria's rail freight system by introducing LNG/CNG-powered locomotives and refurbishing narrow-gauge tracks to provide cleaner, more efficient cargo solutions. His role on the board optimally utilises his cross-sector experience in technology, infrastructure and policy to advance one of Nigeria's most strategic transport projects.

Earlier in his career, Soji held senior leadership roles at American Tower Corporation (ATC) Nigeria, serving as Chief Executive Officer, following earlier positions as Chief Operating Officer and Commercial Director. He led ATC's business transformation, influenced the expansion of its tower and digital infrastructure footprint and delivered strategic partnerships that extended mobile and broadband services to underserved communities. Prior to his engagement with ATC, he was Principal at Maudi Capital, spearheading strategic investments; a Commercial Advisor at ExxonMobil, deepening energy market and economic analysis and held strategy leadership roles at Etisalat Nigeria and IBM.

Ejovi Aror
Group Managing Director,
ipNX Nigeria

Ejovi Aror is the Group Managing Director of ipNX Nigeria Limited, where he provides visionary leadership and strategic oversight for one of Nigeria's foremost information and Communications Technology companies. Under his guidance, ipNX has evolved from a modest telecommunications start-up into a nationally recognized IT powerhouse, delivering innovative connectivity and technology solutions across residential, SME, and enterprise markets. With over three decades of experience at the intersection of technology and business strategy, Ejovi is a highly respected executive known for his ability to identify emerging local and global technology trends and translate them into actionable business opportunities. His leadership style is defined by innovation, foresight, and an unwavering commitment to excellence. Beyond ipNX, Ejovi plays a significant role in shaping Nigeria's broader ICT and business landscape. He serves as Chairman of Telnet Nigeria Limited, Managing Director of Tehinvest Ltd, and sits on the board of the Interswitch Group, among other leading corporate organizations-contributing his expertise to the advancement of digital transformation and financial technology in Nigeria and beyond. Ejovi's professional journey began at Telnet Nigeria Limited, where his rapid rise to leadership culminated in his appointment as Managing Director of iTECO Nigeria Limited, a subsidiary of Telnet, within just eight years. His technical background and academic foundation-a first-class degree in Electrical and Electronics Engineering from Obafemi Awolowo University - provided the springboard for a distinguished career marked by strategic impact and operational excellence.

He holds a Master's degree in Engineering Communications from Brunel University, England, and an Executive MBA from the Lagos Business School Pan-Atlantic University. These academic achievements reflect his dedication to continuous learning and informed leadership. Renowned for his passion for national development, Ejovi is also a committed mentor who has cultivated a network of high-performkng professionals across industries. His legacy is evident in the many proteges who have risen to senior positions and launched successful ventures - testament to his belief in the power of people driven leadership and capacity building, Ejovie Aror's career continues to be defined by a rare combination of technical expertise, business acumen, and a deep-seated belief in the transformative power of technology to unlock human potential and drive sustainable growth.

Aditi Mehta
Co-Founder & Head of Operations,
TecPoint Global Solution Limited

Dynamic and results-driven professional with over 20 years of experience across Client Management, Sales, Marketing, and Business Operations, currently leading Operations & Marketing at TecPoint Global Solutions. Holds a Master's in International Business, bringing a global perspective to strategic decision-making and sustainable business growth. Proven expertise in leading high-performing teams, elevating customer experience, and implementing scalable, process-driven frameworks across both enterprise and retail segments.

Co-founder of TecPoint Global Solutions and RP Marketing Solutions, with a strong entrepreneurial mindset and extensive hands-on experience in building, scaling, and sustaining businesses in competitive markets. A strategic and forward-thinking leader with deep capabilities in business development, digital marketing, and client relationship management. Demonstrates a strong ability to design and execute high-impact marketing strategies, optimize end-to-end customer journeys, and drive operational excellence while consistently maintaining superior service standards.

Recognized for a performance-driven approach, strong leadership, and analytical problem-solving, with a consistent track record of delivering measurable results, fostering cross-functional collaboration, and building long-term, value-driven client partnerships.

Dr. Lawrence Oluwagbenga Bayode
Director ICT, INEC

Dr. Lawrence Oluwagbenga Bayode is a visionary public sector technology leader and the Director of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) at the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), where he leads the digital transformation of Nigeria's electoral systems. With over a decade of impactful contributions to Nigeria's digital evolution, he has been at the forefront of designing and deploying critical election technologies that enhance transparency, credibility, and public trust. He has played a central role in the advancement of biometric accreditation systems, electronic result management frameworks, and the modernization of election infrastructure across Africa's largest democracy. A pioneer in the application of Artificial Intelligence within electoral systems, he led the establishment of INEC's AI Division and is currently driving the Commission's 2025–2027 AI Roadmap. His work focuses on leveraging AI for voter register integrity, disinformation detection, predictive analytics, and decision-support systems, while ensuring strong governance, data protection, and ethical compliance. Dr. Lawrence is widely recognized for his thought leadership in electoral technology and digital governance. He has delivered keynote presentations and participated in high- level policy dialogues across regional and international platforms, including engagements with multilateral institutions and electoral bodies across West Africa. His leadership has been instrumental in executing multiple high-stakes national and off-cycle elections, consistently introducing innovations that strengthen operational efficiency and institutional credibility. Notably, he has championed next- generation solutions such as scan-verified digital result systems, integrating physical and electronic processes to improve accuracy, auditability, and public confidence.Beyond his technical expertise, Dr. Lawrence is committed to building resilient digital institutions, fostering innovation, and mentoring the next generation of technology leaders in public service.

Oluseyi Olanrewaju
HND, BSc, MSc, PhD, MBA, MNIM, FFAR, FCCM, FCTI, F.CIoD, FCMA, CGMA, FCCA, FCA

Oluseyi Olarenwaju is the Group Chief Value Officer at XeroCube and a Professor of Accounting and Finance at James Hope University, Lekki, Lagos. He currently serves as a Member of the Governing Council of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria (ICAN) and the Honorary Treasurer of the Institute. He previously served as the Acting Managing Director and Chief Financial Officer/Board Member of Vodacom Business Africa Nigeria. An accomplished and award-winning finance professional, Seyi is a three-time recipient of the CFO of the Year Award in Nigeria's Telecommunications Industry (2016, 2018, and 2019). His outstanding contributions have also earned him several recognitions, including the Africa Influencer Award 2020, Notable ICAN Person 2020, Award for Service to Humanity 2021 by Rotary Club, recognition among the Top 50 CFOs in Nigeria 2024, and acknowledgment as one of the 100 Leading Personalities in Nigeria's Telecommunications and Digital Economy Sectors in 2024.With over 20 years of progressive professional experience, Seyi has worked across several multinational organizations, including Exxon Mobil Nigeria (now Seplat Petroleum Development Company), PwC, Zenith Bank Plc, MTN Nigeria, General Electric, Internet Solutions (now Dimension Data), Konga, Mixta Africa, Transport Services Limited (TSL), SecureID Group, and Digital Realty. Academically, Seyi is a graduate of Yaba College of Technology and holds a BSc in Applied Accounting from Oxford Brookes University, United Kingdom, an MBA from Lagos State University, and an MSc in Finance from the University of Leicester, United Kingdom, as well as Charisma University, TCI. He is a Fellow of several prestigious professional bodies, including ICAN, CITN, ACCA (UK), CIMA (UK), AICPA, CIoD Nigeria, NIM Chartered, SCGN, and AFAR. He continues to contribute actively to the accounting and finance profession through committee memberships, seminars, conferences, webinars, and paper presentations. Seyi is happily married and blessed with wonderful children. He is also a member of Ikoyi Club 1938, Lagos Country Club, Rotary Club of Ogudu GRA, and Lagos State Public Service Club.

Hapines Obioha

FIMC, CMC, FIPMA, PMP, ISO, CDO Ambassador., AIMFIN

MD/CEO, Tecom Concept Limited

Happiness Obioha is a seasoned business executive, cybersecurity expert, and data protection professional with extensive experience in business development, sales, and strategic leadership. With a track record of driving business growth and implementing innovative cybersecurity solutions and customized software development solutions. She has established herself as a key figure in Nigeria's technology and cybersecurity landscape.She is currently the Chief Executive Officer of Tizel Cybersecurity, a global system integrator and managed services provider. Tizel delivers digital innovation solutions across industries by deeply understanding client needs, business-critical challenges and customized software development solutions to support business needs and drive revenue growth. The company is committed to exceeding expectations through expert guidance and tailored cybersecurity services.In March 2025, Happiness was inducted as a United Nations Ambassador for Peace by the Association of United Nation Ambassadors for Peace. She was also conferred with an honorary doctorate for her continued advocacy for borderless peace campaigns and sustainable development initiatives. Her appointment recognizes her remarkable efforts in promoting global peace and progress across diverse nations without discrimination or segregation.She has also received international training through a highly technical global workshop and Doctorate Fellow in Artificial Intelligence (AI) to drive success in Business and Finance. This further strengthening her capacity to contribute to business operations using Artificial Intelligence and cybersecurity advancement.Currently serving as the Managing Director of TECOM since 2022, Happiness is at the forefront of business expansion, disruptive innovation technology, and corporate leadership. She leads the company's strategic direction, ensuring Tecom remains a trusted brand in providing cutting-edge technology solutions to support the ISPs (Internet Service Providers) and Telecom businesses in Nigeria and Africa.

Enginer Morenikeji Ayodele Aniye

FNSE, FNIEEE, FIMC, FCIPMN

Founder/CEO, Hotspot Network Ltd

Engr. Morenikeji Ayodele Aniye is a seasoned telecommunications expert with over 25 years of experience in telecoms, ICT, and network development, including 16+ years in wireless network design and quality management. He is widely recognized for pioneering rural connectivity solutions in Nigeria, including the OpenRAN model, Rural TowerCo concept, and the country's first fully solar-powered rural base station. He began his career with MTN Nigeria in 2001, contributing to early network expansion in Abuja, and later led key projects that improved network coverage in Northern Nigeria.

He also served as Radio Network Planning and Optimization Manager at Airtel (formerly Zain). In 2008, he founded Hotspot Network Limited, where he developed over 200 towers and drove innovative rural connectivity solutions through a Network-as-a-Service model, earning industry recognition.

Engr. Aniye holds a degree in Electrical/Electronics Engineering from the University of Ilorin and is a fellow/member of several professional bodies, including FNSE, FNIEEE, and COREN. He is a respected thought leader and advocate for digital inclusion and sustainable telecom infrastructure across Africa.

AWARD CITATION

Charles Adesola Soetan
COO, HOTSPOT NETWORK LTD

Charles Adesola Soetan is a seasoned ICT and telecommunications executive with over two decades of experience in project management, business operations, digital transformation, information technology, and strategic leadership. He has successfully delivered complex ICT, telecommunications, financial services, and digital inclusion projects across both public and private sectors in Nigeria. Throughout his career, he has held senior management and executive positions, including Chief Operating Officer, Program Manager, Project Manager, Head of Operations, and IT Executive. His expertise spans project delivery, corporate strategy, enterprise architecture, information security, network infrastructure, business transformation, and stakeholder management. As Chief Operating Officer of Hotspot Network Ltd, he has led major telecommunications infrastructure initiatives, including securing strategic partnerships with leading mobile network operators for the deployment of rural connectivity projects valued at over USD150 million. He has also played a key role in raising significant grant funding and long-term financing for telecommunications and digital access initiatives.Charles possesses extensive experience in managing large-scale ICT programs, including digital inclusion projects, enterprise transformation programs, information security implementations, and telecommunications infrastructure deployments. He is recognized for his strong leadership, excellent communication skills, strategic thinking, and ability to drive projects from conception to successful implementation.He holds a Bachelor's degree in International Relations from the Obafemi Awolowo University and is an Oracle Certified Associate. He also holds an Executive Master's Certificate in Project Management from the Project Management College UK and is a certified ISO 27001 Lead Implementer and Auditor.A results-driven professional, Charles is known for his attention to detail, resourcefulness, people management capabilities, and commitment to achieving organizational objectives while fostering innovation and operational excellence.

Bimpe Olufunke Olaleye
Group Executive Director, Commercials, ipNX Nigeria

Bimpe Olaleye is the Group Executive Director, Commercials, of ipNX Nigeria Limited, responsible for championing strategic business efforts which have led to and strengthened the company's position as a leader in Nigeria's ICT sector. With over three decades of experience in finance and business management, she has developed a unique expertise to merge financial intelligence with strategic thinking, ensuring long-term business growth and profitability. Her career is earmarked by a commitment to excellence, innovation, and forward-thinking.In her role, Bimpe oversees ipNX's different divisions and business units, ensuring operational efficiency and agility in a dynamic ICT market. She is passionate about building systems that enhance value delivery while maintaining the financial stability of the company.
This requires a deep understanding of market trends and the alignment of resources with strategic business goals. Her leadership philosophy centers on the belief that people are an organization's greatest asset. She has mentored numerous emerging leaders, particularly women, empowering them to contribute significantly to the company and the wider business community.
A strong advocate for ethical leadership and corporate governance, she continues to shape the strategic direction of ipNX and the ICT sector in Nigeria with her dedication and passion for transforming challenges into opportunities.
Beyond ipNX, Bimpe is actively involved with various boards and industry bodies, offering her sought-after expertise in financial management, strategic planning, and development. Bimpe is a chartered accountant and fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria (ICAN), Institute of Chartered Taxation of Nigeria (CITN) and a member of the Chartered Institute of Directors, Nigeria (CIOD). Bimpe holds a bachelor's degree in accounting from Ogun State University and a master's degree in finance and management from Cranfield University, United Kingdom, UK.

AWARD CITATION

Olumogba Adetunji
MD/CEO, Nextgen Telcom Limited

Olumogba Adetunji is an accomplished entrepreneur and telecommunications professional with extensive experience spanning telecoms infrastructure, systems integration, broadband solutions, and technology consulting. A graduate of Olabisi Onabanjo University with a B.Sc. in Geophysics, he further strengthened his expertise through executive and professional training in Entrepreneurial Management at Pan Atlantic University, as well as specialized telecommunications programs in India and Nigeria. With a strong background in wired, wireless, mobile, and satellite communications, he has built a successful career in the telecommunications industry, beginning with experience at General Telephone and Electronics (GTE), Lagos. In 2017, he founded Median Technology, a consulting, equipment distribution, systems integration, and support services company delivering innovative solutions across Nigeria's telecoms, satellite, and broadcast sectors. As an entrepreneur and business leader, he possesses strong competencies in management, project management, strategic planning, and customer service, driven by a passion for excellence and achieving organizational goals. Through NextGen Telecoms Limited, he remains committed to delivering customer-focused technological and broadband solutions tailored to households, enterprises, educational institutions, carriers, cloud providers, and content companies. Beyond his professional engagements, Olumogba enjoys travelling, sightseeing, tennis, and watching football

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Tunji Alabi
CEO / MD, Infratel Africa

Tunji Alabi's profile showcases a distinguished career marked by strategic leadership and significant contributions across multiple industries. With over 30 years of international strategic leadership experience, Tunji has demonstrated his ability to manage high-value and mission-critical projects in diverse environments. His cross-functional experience spans banking, oil and gas, telecommunications, healthcare, FMCG, and consulting. As the CEO / MD of Infratel Africa, Tunji leads a key telecommunications infrastructure provider with a presence throughout Africa. He is also the MD / CEO of Infusion Systems Africa, a renewable energy development company. His career includes significant roles such as CIO of Fidelity Bank Ghana Limited and CIO / Group Head of Technology at ETI (Ecobank Group). He also held the position of Director of Strategy at Airtel Nigeria (formerly Vmobile) amongst other roles.Tunji has been recognized for his contributions with awards such as the Ghana "CIO of the Year" in 2014 and the "CEO's Excellence Award" for the best employee of the year 2005 at Airtel Nigeria. Through Infratel Africa, he has digitally connected over 150 communities by providing telecommunication and value-added services, and brought over 2 million people into the formal economy with financial inclusion and other solutions. Tunji led several major IT initiatives, including the centralization of services at Ecobank and the implementation of mobile banking at Airtel Nigeria.Tunji holds a degree in Computer Engineering from Obafemi Awolowo University, Ife, Nigeria, and a postgraduate degree in Telecommunications from South Bank University, London. He has also completed several Executive Management courses at home and abroad. His expertise in strategic management is highlighted by his roles in acquiring management information systems and overseeing programme management, including requirement analysis, design, integration, and testing. Tunji's career began with a focus on business transformation and strategy at Citibank NA in the UK, setting the foundation for his future successes

AWARD CITATION

Engr. Olawale Owoeye
MBA, FMC, FIMC
Co-founder and Managing Director
Cedarview Communications Limited

Olawale is a versatile and highly accomplished Engineer with a Bachelor's degree in Electronic & Electrical Engineering, Second Class Upper Division from Obafemi Awolowo University (OAU), Ile-Ife, and an MBA from the University of Manchester, UK. He has worked in all critical elements of the Telecommunications Industry from Field Support, Transmission, Core Networks, Project Management, Business Analysis, Strategy Planning and Growth, and with major multinationals like Ericsson, Huawei, MTN, and Airtel in the Middle East and Africa. Co-founded of Cedarview Communications Limited in 2011, alongside a course mate, he has propelled the company to prominence in the telecommunication industry, growing it to be one of the leading solutions providers in the country, through his astute leadership, proactive approach to innovation, service excellence, and technical prowess. Additionally, he has serves on various Boards such as the Consulting Firm, School Board, Technology firms, National Executive of the Association of Telecommunication Companies for over six years, bringing his wealth of experience and strategic insight to diverse organizations and initiatives.

Dr. Francis Chiagozie Osita-Chuks
MD/CEO, Rapidlink Telekoms Limited & Chief Innovation Officer, IvoryPay

Dr. Francis Chiagozie Osita-Chuks is a distinguished Nigerian executive, public administrator, and philanthropist with a proven track record of leadership across public governance, telecommunications, fintech, and manufacturing. Known for his strategic acumen and commitment to innovation, he has successfully steered both high-level government policies and multi-industry corporate growth.In the public sector, Dr. Osita-Chuks has championed impactful community initiatives, serving as the Executive Chairman of the Umunneochi LGA in Abia State, Special Assistant to the Governor on Public Policy, and Special Adviser on Development Policy to the Chief Whip of the Nigerian Senate.As a versatile corporate leader, he drives growth across several major enterprises, serving as the Chairman of Virtual Group Limited (since 2004), President of Mediterranean Vegetable Oils Limited (since 2017), and MD/CEO of Rapidlink Telekoms Limited (since 2022). He is also actively shaping the future of digital finance as the Chief Innovation Officer of IvoryPay (Ivory Global Telesolution Ltd).His robust academic foundation includes a Ph.D. and an MBA in Business Administration, a B.Sc. in Government and Public Administration, and an Honorary Doctorate from Atlas University. This is complemented by advanced executive diplomas in leadership and administrative management from prestigious London institutions. He is a Certified Business Analysis Professional (CBAP) and holds active memberships in global bodies, including the International Institute of Business Analysis and the London Institute of Administrative Management.A fluent Spanish speaker and expert negotiator, Dr. Osita-Chuks frequently translates his professional success into societal impact. Through the Royalcare Empowerment Foundation, a humanitarian organization he founded, he remains dedicated to youth empowerment, human development, and sustainable community progress.

Safiriyu Rosenje
Executive Director and Chief Financial Officer, Dimension Data Limited

With an extensive background spanning over 20 years in senior financial leadership roles within the technology and consulting sectors, Safiriyu plays a pivotal role in managing and overseeing the comprehensive financial landscape of the technology business. His responsibilities encompass a wide range of critical functions, including accounting, financial planning and analysis, treasury management, and tax compliance.

Safiriyu is an Executive Director and Chief Financial Officer at Dimension Data Limited. Safiriyu is also an esteemed member of several professional organizations, including the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria, the Chartered Institute of Taxation of Nigeria, and the Institute of Directors (IoD), highlighting his unwavering commitment to professional excellence and continuous development in the financial sector.

AWARD CITATION

Olumide Idowu
Group Technology, Transformation & Program Management,
AlfaBeta Consulting LLP

Olumide Idowu is a strategic customer-focused, techno-commercial C-suite executive with over 25 years of international experience in IT and telecommunications. A pioneer in Nigeria's evolution from traditional to next-generation IT and Telecommunications, he is a strong proponent of leveraging ICT to improve living standards and bridge the digital divide across Africa. He has a proven track record of leading complex, cross-border programs, designing and deploying large-scale telecom and IT networks, and has also led the delivery of software-based innovative solutions across cloud and edge computing, artificial intelligence enabled systems and cybersecurity. His expertise spans the development and execution of future-ready technology strategies, driving digital transformation, and delivering measurable business value. An international conference speaker, Olumide holds an MBA in International Business Management from Blekinge Institute of Technology, Sweden, and is an alumnus of executive programs at George Washington University, University of Pretoria, Pan-African University, and the University of Texas at Dallas. His vision is a fully democratized Internet and a digitally connected Africa.

Adebiyi Oke
COO and Programmes Director,
Silicon Base Advisory Group.

Adebiyi, an edupreneur, sociopreneur, techpreneur, and a projectpreneur of over 25 years' experience, is the Chief Operating Officer and Programmes Director at Silicon Base Advisory Group. He has helped Silicon Base Advisory Group achieve organizational growth across technology implementation and management consultancies, promoting several digital economy initiatives. These initiatives span urban-focused technology projects and rural intervention digital transformation projects.Adebiyi is also the Founder and Publisher of EduTimes Africa, a prominent online educational content platform for Africa and for Africans. He had previously founded Education Radio (e-Radio), a web-based and school campus-based radio service dedicated to providing 21st-century education content. He has helped many start-ups become established businesses across the education and technology spaces.He has had over 15 years of professional engagement in the education space, having co-founded Granny Murray Resources, Granny Murray Schools, Granny Murray Foundation, and most recently, the Cana-Care Education Programme. He is also the convener and host of the Collaboration for Success webinar series, a talk program aimed at collaborating, cooperating, and coordinating with global industry stakeholders to support and improve developments in the education sector across Nigeria and Africa. Adebiyi brings the convergence of his experience and passion for education and entrepreneurship to EduTimes Africa to drive the company's mission and vision.In the past, as Project Manager (North of Nigeria) at Resourcery PLC, Adebiyi was responsible for delivering several technology-based project portfolios. He played key roles with teams in the development of company strategies and objectives, especially as Project Assistant to the Chief Technical Officer at the former Nigerian Mobile Telecommunications Ltd (MTEL) and other ICT-based organizations, using his inherent ability to initiate and drive change in demanding environments.Adebiyi, a graduate of the University of Lagos, trained as a project manager in the UK, and is a project management professional (PMP), Cisco and Comptia certified.

AWARD CITATION

Oshadami Oluwasayo John

Director, Solutions Architect | Equinix West Africa

Oshadami Oluwasayo John is a visionary technology executive and infrastructure architect with over 16 years of experience driving digital transformation across West Africa and Europe. A leading authority in data center design, cloud ecosystems, and subsea connectivity, he has consistently engineered the critical infrastructure that powers today's digital economy. Currently serving as the Director of Solutions Architecture at Equinix West Africa, Oshadami spearheads the strategic design and delivery of resilient, carrier-neutral data center solutions and interconnected ecosystems. His expertise lies in building hyperscale-ready, energy-efficient facilities that meet rigorous global compliance standards (including Uptime Institute Tier III/IV), while integrating multi-tier redundancy and advanced cooling technologies. At the forefront of infrastructure innovation, he champions software-defined data center (SDDC) architectures that drastically optimize latency, security, and scalability for cloud service providers, Tier-1 ISPs, enterprises, and sovereign governments.Oshadami's influence extends far beyond corporate boundaries into national policy and regional connectivity. As the Chairman of the Technical Subcommittee for the National Sovereign Cloud Initiative (NSCI) under NITDA, he serves as a trusted advisor on public-private partnerships designed to accelerate secure cloud adoption in Nigeria. Furthermore, his strategic counsel on the Digital Atlantic Project has been pivotal in designing submarine cable route diversions across the West African coastline and the Pan-Atlantic ocean, successfully mitigating critical risks arising from geopolitical and physical disruptions.A passionate advocate for Africa's digital sovereignty, Oshadami is dedicated to positioning the continent as a sustainable, global digital hub. His forward-looking initiatives focus on expanding renewable energy- powered data ecosystems, advancing local cloud adoption through robust data governance, growing regional Internet Exchange Points (IXPs).

Dr. Tola Yusuf

Co-Founder & Executive Director, Infratel Africa

Dr. Tola Yusuf is a visionary technology expert, serial entrepreneur, and the Co-founder and Executive Director of Infratel Africa. Guided by his philosophy of "Passion, Purpose, and Pedigree," he has spent over two decades combining engineering, economics, and business strategy to transform rural digital landscapes. Named the "Most Valuable Personality in Nigeria's Digital Economy" in 2024, Dr. Yusuf champions open-access infrastructure as a vital tool for socioeconomic inclusion. Under his leadership, Infratel Africa has connected over 250 underserved communities, bringing more than 2 million people into the digital economy with reliable voice, data, and financial services. His strategic achievements include securing a crucial regional fiber license from the NCC, acquiring over $400 million in telecom assets, and obtaining an MVNO license for ecosystem expansion. To ensure sustainable community growth, he also drives robust CSR initiatives focused on free digital literacy training and rural school connectivity. Dr. Yusuf holds an MBA and a Ph.D. alongside an engineering background, with executive training from Harvard Business School and the Paris School of Business. He is a Certified Management Consultant (CMC) and a Fellow of both the Institute of Management Consultants (FIMC) and the Institute of Credit Administration (FICA). Looking forward, Dr. Yusuf is steering Infratel Africa toward next-generation innovation, expanding rural smart Wi-Fi, deploying IoT-driven smart city solutions, and introducing AI-powered precision farming to boost agricultural productivity across the region.

AWARD CITATION

Azeez Amida
CEO, Pan African Towers

Azeez Amida is a respected Nigerian business executive, investor, author, and telecommunications industry leader with over 18 years of experience spanning telecommunications, investment banking, financial advisory, FMCG, healthcare, and infrastructure development. He is the Founder of Fusewall Holdings, a forward-looking investment and operating company focused on building scalable platforms across telecommunications and related infrastructure sectors. Under his leadership, Fusewall Holdings has expanded its footprint in Nigeria's digital economy through strategic investments and infrastructure acquisitions. Tech | Business | Economy +1Azeez previously served as CEO of Pan African Towers and held senior leadership roles within the IHS Group, including CEO of IHS Rwanda. Known for his expertise in business growth, operational excellence, and strategic execution, he is also a published author, speaker, mentor, and member of the Forbes Business Council. His vision is centered on accelerating digital inclusion, strengthening telecommunications infrastructure, and driving sustainable economic growth across Africa.

Michael Adedotun Ayoade
Founder/Managing Director, Dotmac Technologies Limited

Michael Adedotun Ayoade is the Founder and Managing Director of Dotmac Technologies Limited, a leading Nigerian digital infrastructure and technology solutions company. A Computer Science graduate of the Federal University of Technology, Yola, he is an accomplished technology entrepreneur, network engineer, and software developer with expertise spanning broadband connectivity, cybersecurity, cloud services, enterprise networking, software development, and Artificial Intelligence (AI).Since founding Dotmac in 2008, Michael has transformed the company into a trusted provider of digital solutions for businesses and institutions across Nigeria. Renowned for his hands-on leadership and innovation, he has championed the development of home-grown software and AI-driven solutions that enhance business efficiency and digital transformation.

In recognition of his contributions to Nigeria's technology ecosystem, he was named among Nigeria's 50 Most Valuable Personalities in the Digital Economy (2024). He is currently pursuing an Executive MBA at Lagos Business School, further strengthening his leadership and business management capabilities.

Dr. Pokop Wushipba Bupwatda
Chief Medical Director, Jos University Teaching Hospital (JUTH

Dr. Pokop Wushipba Bupwatda has emerged as a transformative leader in Nigeria's healthcare sector. A Public Health Physician with extensive administrative and consultant experience within JUTH, his tenure has been defined by operational transparency, improved patient welfare, and strategic institutional partnerships. Under his leadership, JUTH has become a national model for technology-led healthcare reform, proving that innovation in Nigeria's digital economy extends far beyond commercial hubs. By the first quarter of 2026, the hospital had successfully integrated biomedical informatics, genetics, and digital diagnostics into routine clinical practice - addressing the long-standing challenge of fragmented patient records and significantly improving care coordination and patient outcomes.
Additionally, JUTH now leverages radio communication systems to provide real-time visibility into space availability, effectively bridging the gap between operational performance and clinical workflow assessment. Dr. Bupwatda's leadership demonstrates that digital transformation in healthcare is not only possible but scalable, positioning JUTH as a benchmark for federally funded tertiary health institutions across Nigeria.

AWARD CITATION

Mr. Opeyemi Ajiboye
MD/CEO, Dunatos Teach. Consulting Limited

Opeyemi Ajiboye is an accomplished Technology Business Leader with over 20 years Industry experience. He is the CEO at Dunatos Technology, a firm he co-founded to provide innovative Telecommunications & Power Solutions. Before establishing Dunatos Technology, Opeyemi served as the pioneering Chief Technical Officer at Tizeti Network, where he played a key role in the company's growth and expansion while shaping its long-term technology strategy. Prior to this, he was the Divisional CEO of the Technology Infrastructure Division at ipNX Nigeria, overseeing business operations and strategy. He also led the company's Engineering team, managing network engineering, technology assets, and ensuring exceptional service delivery to clients. Earlier in his career, Opeyemi held various senior technical and leadership roles at L.M. Ericsson, a global leader in telecommunications equipment and services. As a Certified Senior Service Engineer and Technical Lead, he was involved in numerous projects across Africa, Europe, and North America. He also served as the Service Delivery Line Manager for Access Networks, and as Head of Network Rollout Implementation Management, spearheading key initiatives in network deployment, operations and technical sales for 3G and 4G. Notably, he was the Global Automation Champion for Ericsson Sub-Saharan Africa, driving innovation in automation and service delivery across the region. Opeyemi holds a Bachelor's degree in Electrical & Electronics Engineering from the University of Ilorin, Nigeria, an MBA in Technology Management from Colorado Technical University (USA), and a Project Management Certificate from George Washington University (USA). He is also a graduate of the Ericsson Management Development Program and has completed various leadership, management, and technical training programs. With a proven track record of driving business and technological transformation across multiple continents, Opeyemi continues to be a visionary leader at the forefront of the technology business landscape.

Engr. Muiden O. Oladapo
Chief Technical Officer, Dunatos Teach. Consulting Limited

Engr. Muideen is the CTO Dunatos Technology Consulting Limited is an accomplished engineering professional with over 15 years of multidisciplinary experience spanning telecommunications infrastructure (optical fiber), renewable energy, ICT, and electrical power systems. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Electronic and Electrical Engineering from Ladoke Akintola University of Technology (LAUTECH) and a Master's degree in Engineering Management from the University of Ibadan, providing a solid blend of technical depth and strategic leadership capability. He has further strengthened his professional capacity through advanced training in business management, financial management, and energy management, effectively bridging the gap between engineering execution, project finance, and sustainable business development.

ngr. Muideen is the CTO Dunatos Technology Consulting Limited is an accomplished engineering professional with over 15 years of multidisciplinary experience spanning telecommunications infrastructure (optical fiber), renewable energy, ICT, and electrical power systems. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Electronic and Electrical Engineering from Ladoke Akintola University of Technology (LAUTECH) and a Master's degree in Engineering Management from the University of Ibadan, providing a solid blend of technical depth and strategic leadership capability. He has further strengthened his professional capacity through advanced training in business management, financial management, and energy management, effectively bridging the gap between engineering execution, project finance, and sustainable business development.

INSTITUTIONAL RECOGNITION 2026 WACC 50 MOST INFLUENTIAL FIGURES IN NIGERIA'S DIGITAL ECONOMY

Presented to

MINISTRY OF FINANCE INCORPORATED (MOFI) FOR DEMONSTRATING OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP, INNOVATION, AND CONTRIBUTION TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF NIGERIA'S DIGITAL ECONOMY ECOSYSTEM.

Under the transformative leadership of **Dr. Armstrong Ume Takang**, the **Ministry of Finance Incorporated (MOFI)** has been repositioned from a passive holder of government assets into a globally benchmarked sovereign investment institution focused on value creation, asset optimisation, and long-term economic growth.

Playing a catalytic role in Nigeria's digital economy, MOFI bridges public finance, indigenous technology, and private capital—supporting fintech innovation, modernising public digital assets, and forging strategic partnerships with institutions such as the World Bank.

For redefining public asset management and catalysing technology-led development, **MOFI is a deserving recipient of this recognition at WACC 2026** and among the **50 Most Influential Figures and Institutions in Nigeria's Digital Economy.**

INSTITUTIONAL RECOGNITION 2026 WACC 50 MOST INFLUENTIAL FIGURES IN NIGERIA'S DIGITAL ECONOMY

Presented to

NATIONAL INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (NITDA) FOR DEMONSTRATING OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP, INNOVATION, AND CONTRIBUTION TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF NIGERIA'S DIGITAL ECONOMY ECOSYSTEM.

Under the strategic leadership of **Kashifu Inuwa Abdullahi,** the **National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA)** has emerged as a central driver of Nigeria's digital economy transformation.

Through bold policy frameworks such as SRAP 2.0 (2024–2027) and the DAWN Partnership, NITDA is accelerating nationwide digital literacy, advancing AI and emerging technologies, and promoting regionally balanced innovation.

By placing human capital at the heart of digital growth and strengthening collaboration with states, startups, and innovators, NITDA is laying the policy and skills foundation for Nigeria's global digital competitiveness—earning this well-deserved recognition at **WACC 2026** and among the **50 Most Influential Figures and Institutions in Nigeria's Digital Economy.**

INSTITUTIONAL RECOGNITION 2026 WACC 50 MOST INFLUENTIAL FIGURES IN NIGERIA'S DIGITAL ECONOMY

Presented to

SIDMACH TECHNOLOGIES NIGERIA LIMITED FOR DEMONSTRATING OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP, INNOVATION, AND CONTRIBUTION TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF NIGERIA'S DIGITAL ECONOMY ECOSYSTEM.

Under the leadership of **present Managing Director Michael A. Olajide** and **fellow directors, co-founders, Sidmach Technologies Nigeria Limited** has become a cornerstone of Nigeria's digital economy.
With over three decades of ICT leadership, Olajide and his team have positioned Sidmach as a leading indigenous technology firm driving enterprise digital transformation, large-scale software deployment, and nationwide digital skills development.
Through impactful public–private partnerships and a strong commitment to locally built software solutions, Sidmach has positively influenced over 100 million lives across Africa.

For exemplary leadership, indigenous innovation, and sustained contributions to Nigeria's education with software ecosystem, **Sidmach Technologies** is honoured at **WACC 2026** and recognised among the **50 Most Influential Figures and Institutions in Nigeria's Digital Economy.**

INSTITUTIONAL RECOGNITION 2026 WACC 50 MOST INFLUENTIAL FIGURES IN NIGERIA'S DIGITAL ECONOMY

Presented to

SWITCH SOLUTIONS LIMITED FOR DEMONSTRATING OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP, INNOVATION, AND CONTRIBUTION TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF NIGERIA'S DIGITAL ECONOMY ECOSYSTEM.

Under the leadership of **Abdulaziz Aliyu Ari, Switch Solutions Limited** has become a trusted driver of Nigeria's digital economy, advancing cybersecurity, data protection compliance, and enterprise ICT transformation.

As General Secretary of **ALDAPCON** and a key collaborator with the Nigeria Data Protection Commission, **Ari** has helped shape national data protection frameworks while strengthening public–private trust in digital systems. Through robust **NDPA** compliance services, DPO-as-a-Service, cross-border data governance, and bespoke enterprise software solutions, Switch Solutions continues to secure and accelerate digital transformation across corporate Nigeria.

For its leadership in digital trust, cybersecurity, and policy-driven innovation, **Switch Solutions Limited** is honoured at **WACC 2026** and recognised among the **50 Most Influential Figures and Institutions in Nigeria's Digital Economy.**

INSTITUTIONAL RECOGNITION 2026 WACC 50 MOST INFLUENTIAL FIGURES IN NIGERIA'S DIGITAL ECONOMY

Presented to

NIGERIA DATA PROTECTION COMMISSION (NDPC) FOR DEMONSTRATING OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP, INNOVATION, AND CONTRIBUTION TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF NIGERIA'S DIGITAL ECONOMY ECOSYSTEM.

Under the leadership of **Dr. Vincent Olatunji,** the **Nigeria Data Protection Commission (NDPC)** has emerged as the cornerstone of trust and accountability in Nigeria's digital economy.

Established as a statutory regulator through the **Nigeria Data Protection Act (NDPA)** 2023, the **NDPC** transformed data protection from policy intent into enforceable national regulation.

Through strong institutional partnerships, capacity building, and alignment with global standards, the Commission has catalysed a fast-growing data protection and privacy services industry valued at over 5.5 billion. For entrenching data privacy, strengthening digital governance, and safeguarding citizens' data in a rapidly digitising economy, the **NDPC** is a deserving recipient of recognition at **WACC 2026** and among the **50 Most Influential Figures and Institutions in Nigeria's Digital Economy.**

INSTITUTIONAL RECOGNITION 2026 WACC 50 MOST INFLUENTIAL FIGURES IN NIGERIA'S DIGITAL ECONOMY

Presented to

PRECISE FINANCIAL SYSTEMS LIMITED (PFS) FOR DEMONSTRATING OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP, INNOVATION, AND CONTRIBUTION TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF NIGERIA'S DIGITAL ECONOMY ECOSYSTEM.

Under the visionary leadership of **Co-Founder and CEO, Dr. Yele Okeremi, PFS** has become a trailblazer of Nigeria's indigenous software and fintech industry.

Founded in 1994 with under $60, the company has grown into a world-class financial technology powerhouse deployed across more than 35 African countries—proving that globally competitive software can be built in Africa. Through landmark platforms such as **iTeller,** Nigeria's National Automated Clearing System, PFS has transformed inter-bank payments, replaced costly foreign software, and strengthened national digital self-reliance.

For pioneering indigenous innovation, exporting Nigerian intellectual property across Africa, and shaping fintech policy and talent, PFS and **Dr. Yele Okeremi** are honoured at **WACC 2026** and recognised among the **50 Most Influential Figures in Nigeria's Digital Economy.**

INSTITUTIONAL RECOGNITION 2026 WACC 50 MOST INFLUENTIAL FIGURES IN NIGERIA'S DIGITAL ECONOMY

Presented to

PRESENTED TO DIGITAL REALTY NIGERIA FOR DEMONSTRATING OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP, INNOVATION, AND CONTRIBUTION TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF NIGERIA'S DIGITAL ECONOMY ECOSYSTEM.

Under the leadership of **Managing Director, Engr. Ikechukwu Nnamani, Digital Realty Nigeria** has emerged as a foundational pillar of Nigeria's digital economy, delivering hyperscale-grade data centre infrastructure and positioning Lagos as West Africa's leading interconnection hub.

By integrating IXPN into its Lekki campus and hosting global CDNs such as Google, Meta, and TikTok, the company has driven data localisation, reduced latency, and lowered systemic internet costs. Leveraging Digital Realty's global Service Fabric platform, it connects Nigerian enterprises seamlessly to international clouds and digital markets.

For redefining digital infrastructure standards, enabling large-scale interconnection, and strengthening West Africa's global digital connectivity, **Digital Realty Nigeria** and **Engr. Ikechukwu Nnamani** are honoured at **WACC 2026** and recognised among the **50 Most Influential Figures in Nigeria's Digital Economy.**

INSTITUTIONAL RECOGNITION 2026 WACC 50 MOST INFLUENTIAL FIGURES IN NIGERIA'S DIGITAL ECONOMY

Presented to

INTERNET EXCHANGE POINT OF NIGERIA (IXPN) FOR DEMONSTRATING OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP, INNOVATION, AND CONTRIBUTION TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF NIGERIA'S DIGITAL ECONOMY ECOSYSTEM.

Under the pioneering leadership of **Muhammed Rudman**, the **Internet Exchange Point of Nigeria (IXPN)** has become the foundational backbone of Nigeria's digital ecosystem.

By localising internet traffic, **IXPN** transformed Nigeria from an outsourced routing model to a resilient national exchange—domesticating over 70% of internet traffic, cutting latency to 5–10ms, and enabling real-time digital services at scale. With a nationwide footprint connecting over 125 networks and delivering annual foreign exchange savings exceeding $40 million, **IXPN** under Rudman's stewardship has strengthened digital sovereignty, powered fintech growth, and ensured national internet resilience.

For redefining Nigeria's internet infrastructure and accelerating the digital economy, **IXPN** is a deserving recipient of this prestigious institutional recognition.

INSTITUTIONAL RECOGNITION 2026 WACC 50 MOST INFLUENTIAL FIGURES IN NIGERIA'S DIGITAL ECONOMY

Presented to

MANGONET INTEGRATED TECHNOLOGIES LTD FOR DEMONSTRATING OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP, INNOVATION, AND CONTRIBUTION TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF NIGERIA'S DIGITAL ECONOMY ECOSYSTEM.

Founded in 2019, **MangoNet Integrated Technologies Ltd.** has rapidly emerged as a high-impact Internet Service Provider advancing Nigeria's broadband expansion and digital inclusion agenda. Backed by strong fibre-optic engineering expertise and operating under the Anchor **Telecoms Group, MangoNet** has delivered reliable last-mile connectivity through FTTH and WISP solutions, enabling digital access for homes, schools, hospitals, businesses, and public institutions.

Under the visionary leadership of **Mr. Tony Izuagbe Emoekpere,** the company has accelerated broadband penetration, supported local content growth, and contributed to policy alignment within Nigeria's telecoms ecosystem.

For its growing role in infrastructure development, digital empowerment, and industry collaboration, MangoNet Integrated Technologies Ltd. is honoured at **WACC 2026** and recognised among the **50 Most Influential Figures and Institutions in Nigeria's Digital Economy.**

INSTITUTIONAL RECOGNITION 2026 WACC 50 MOST INFLUENTIAL FIGURES IN NIGERIA'S DIGITAL ECONOMY

Presented to

GALAXY BACKBONE LIMITED (GBB) LTD FOR DEMONSTRATING OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP, INNOVATION, AND CONTRIBUTION TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF NIGERIA 'S DIGITAL ECONOMY ECOSYSTEM.

Under the leadership of **Professor Ibrahim Adepoju Adeyanju, Galaxy Backbone Limited (GBB)** has been transformed into Nigeria's foremost public digital infrastructure institution and a cornerstone of national digital sovereignty.

Since his appointment in 2024, **GBB** has accelerated nationwide fibre deployment, strengthened government cyber-security, advanced local data hosting through the 1GovernmentCloud, and repositioned itself as a reference model for e-governance across Sub-Saharan Africa.

For redefining public digital infrastructure, advancing data sovereignty, and strengthening Nigeria's digital future, **Galaxy Backbone Limited,** under **Professor Adeyanju's** leadership, is honoured at **WACC 2026** and recognised among the **50 Most Influential Figures and Institutions in Nigeria's Digital Economy**.

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