



## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Botswana Telecommunications Authority signs contract on the supply, installation and commissioning of an Automated Spectrum Management System with TCI International**

In January 2003, the Botswana Telecommunications Authority (BTA) floated an international tender for the supply, installation and commissioning of an Automated Spectrum Management system (ASMS). The tender which was published both locally and internationally attracted bids from five international companies namely Tadiran Electronics Systems from Israel, Protea Electronics from South Africa, TCI International from the United States of America, Thales Communications from France and Grintek Ewation of South Africa.

As far as possible, the BTA employed the services of local consultants who worked with their international counterparts for specialised services such as the design of the system. Because of the magnitude and complexity of the project, the lead consultants ICT Consultants (Pty) Ltd, a local telecommunications consulting firm, also carried out an independent evaluation of the tender bids.

In October 2003, the Board of the BTA short listed two out of the five bidders, namely TCI International and Protea Electronics, for further evaluation. The evaluation involved inspection of similar installations in various countries. Furthermore, an Environmental and Archaeological Impact Assessment Study was conducted at all of the proposed sites in line with the National Conservation Strategy.

On the 27<sup>th</sup> January 2004, the BTA commenced pre-contract negotiations with TCI International (TCI) of the United States of America who were first in the shortlist.

The BTA has also negotiated a maintenance contract estimated to cost approximately P4 million with TCI. The maintenance contract will run over an initial period of 5 years in order to ensure that the system is fully operational at all times.

The radio frequency spectrum management and the monitoring system will simplify many of the responsibilities of radio spectrum administration such as licensing, engineering analysis, frequency assignment and monitoring. The integration of the monitoring system with the frequency management system allows the system to perform automatic violation detection so as to identify illegal radio transmitters. The system will also assist in the implementation of the National radio Frequency Plan.

The proposed system will ensure that BTA can manage the radio spectrum effectively to cater for the needs of all sectors of the

economy and ensure that Botswana can comply with its international obligations.

After successful negotiations with TCI, BTA has today 6 February 2004, awarded the contract for the supply, installation and commissioning of the ASMMS to TCI International, a California (USA) based company for the sum of USD 11 207 920.00 (Eleven Million two hundred and seven thousand, nine hundred and twenty United States Dollars) which is equivalent to about P57 million at present day exchange rate. The ASMMS project will consist of the frequency assignment and licensing software, management database and sixteen (16) remote monitoring stations located throughout the country.

TCI has made a commitment to set up a regional office for Africa in Botswana, in line with counter trade initiatives outlined by the World Bank. This initiative is intended to address issues of technology transfer, employment creation, etc. As part of the project, TCI will be providing the necessary training to BTA personnel.

The whole project is estimated to cost around P80 million including associated costs contracted directly by BTA like maintenance of the system, utility charges, consultancies and ancillary works like access roads to the installations countrywide.

It is expected that the project would be completed by the last quarter of 2005.

**C.M. Lekaukau**

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**Executive Chairman**

**Botswana Telecommunications Authority**

**6<sup>th</sup> February 2004**