



CONTENTS

Editor's Note by Dr. Krishnan: 9
A Day Towards Digital Transformation: 27
Executive Summary: 34
Gender Equality in Digital Transformation: 24
Scaling Startups 15 Years with 15 Stories: 28
Salomon, Africa's Next Big Thing: 34

14 COVER

- Dr. Krishnan Ranganath
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A TRANSFORMATIONAL LEADER SPEARHEADING AFRICA'S DIGITAL REVOLUTION

Dr. Krishnan Ranganath (Krish)
Regional Executive, Africa
Africa's Next Big Thing

INSIDE: M-PESA hits \$450bn in transactions, solidifies African fintech lead

FEATURES NEWS

Robust Infrastructure: The Bedrock of a Sustainable Digital Economy



Adin Hagental
CEO, Future Digital Economy

A robust digital infrastructure is the bedrock of a sustainable digital economy. It is the foundation upon which all digital services are built. Without a robust digital infrastructure, the digital economy cannot thrive. This article explores the importance of digital infrastructure and the challenges faced by developing countries in building a robust digital infrastructure. It also discusses the role of governments and private companies in building a robust digital infrastructure.

Vertiv appoints MIKE GIRESI global CIO



Mike Giresi

Vertiv, a global leader in digital infrastructure, has appointed Mike Giresi as its new global Chief Information Officer (CIO). Giresi, who has over 20 years of experience in digital infrastructure, will be responsible for leading Vertiv's digital transformation efforts. He will also be responsible for ensuring that Vertiv's digital infrastructure is robust and secure.



Digital Economy

Ghana, UAE Partner To Establish Innovation And Technology Hub

The Ministry of Communication, Digital Technology, and Innovations (MoCDTI) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Dubai Ports, Customs and Free Zone Corporation (PCFC) and Presight AI to establish the Ghana-UAE Innovation and Technology Hub.



This initiative reflects the vision of our President to diversify our economy and ensure innovation becomes a primary engine of inclusive, sustainable development

6

Digital Economy Magazine | Issue 70, 2025



The hub aims to position Ghana as a continental leader in digital transformation and technological advancement, creating a platform for investment, innovation, and job creation. The partnership is expected to drive economic growth, build export capacity in advanced technologies, and strengthen diplomatic ties between Ghana and the United Arab Emirates.

Speaking at the signing ceremony, Hon. Minister for Communication, Digital Technology, and Innovations, emphasized the importance of digital transformation in Ghana's development agenda. "This

initiative reflects the vision of our President to diversify our economy and ensure innovation becomes a primary engine of inclusive, sustainable development," he said.

The Ghana-UAE Innovation and Technology Hub is expected to create thousands of high-value, technology-driven jobs for Ghana's young population and build export capacity in advanced technologies and value-added services. This partnership marks a significant milestone in Ghana's digital

7

MTN GHANA COLLABORATES WITH GOVERNMENT TO ENHANCE DIGITAL ECOSYSTEM



The Minister for Communication, Digital Technology and Innovations, Hon. Samuel Nartey with MTN officials, led by Stephen Blewett, MTN Ghana CEO, to discuss ways to strengthen the digital ecosystem in Ghana.

The Minister highlighted the need for improved quality of service and SIM crime and enhance security.

He made these remarks when he visited MTN today as part of his tour to Tech Companies.

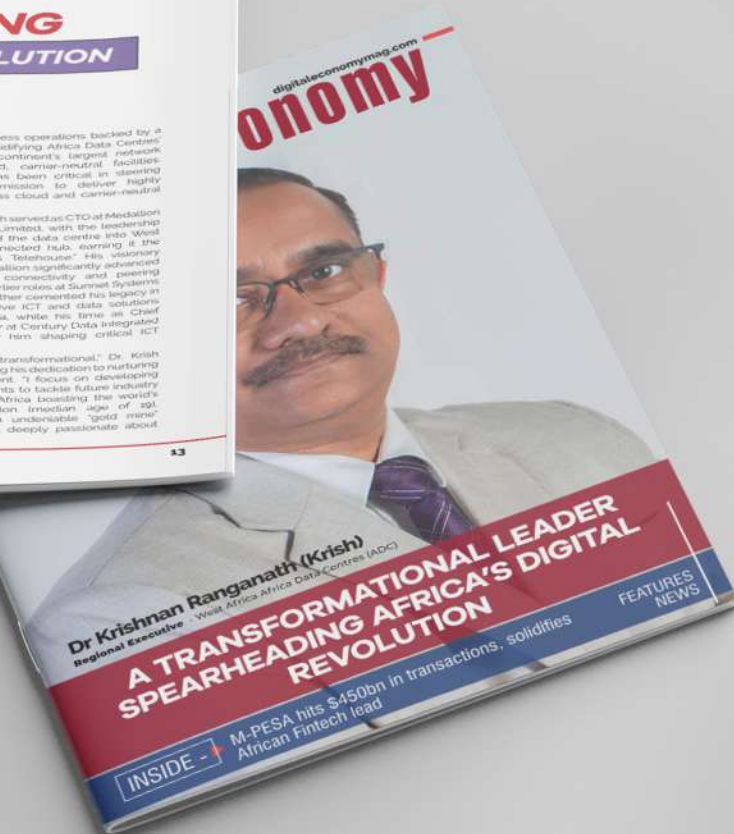
Hon. Sam George (MP) emphasized the importance of collaboration to ensure the success of digital payment initiatives and improve financial inclusion.

Key areas of focus include:

1. Improving quality of service and customer experience
2. Implementing SIM registration and IMEI regulation to prevent crime and enhance security
3. Enhancing digital payment systems for government services
4. Promoting financial inclusion and reducing cash transactions

The Minister highlighted the government's commitment to working with MTN and other stakeholders to achieve these goals, stating, "We need to work together to get it done." Both parties agreed to work closely together to address these challenges and promote a secure digital environment.





SATELLITE



EUTELSAT AND ORANGE REINFORCE PARTNERSHIP WITH NEW MULTI-YEAR LEO AGREEMENT

Eutelsat Group and Orange, one of the world's leading telecommunications operators and digital service providers, have signed an agreement enabling Orange to reinforce its position in low earth orbit (LEO) satellite communications.

Through this latest investment, Orange aims to strengthen its satellite solutions portfolio with LEO connectivity solutions providing high throughput, low latency, resilient and sovereign services to its enterprise and government customers wherever they are located and support mobile backhauling globally.

By combining Eutelsat's satellite coverage with its terrestrial networks, Orange will deliver seamless continuity of service and enhanced security as part of a digital inclusion approach for businesses allowing them to access critical services even in the most complex environments and underserved or remote areas of the globe.



Cyril Dujardin, President of the Corequisite Business Unit at Eutelsat said: "Eutelsat is delighted to further reinforce its relationship with Orange and to provide premium, ultra-low latency connectivity to its customers. LEO-enabled services are becoming an integral technology for global fleet coverage, its enhanced its service to its enterprise customers."

Jean-Louis Le Roux, EVP Orange Aerospace Networks said: "It is a strategic move for Orange to invest in the orbital LEO European solution that provides best in class, instant, secure and sovereign digital connectivity services to its customers wherever they are located, allowing it of vital importance to support their digital transformation."

Orange and Eutelsat enjoy a long-standing partnership. Orange is the exclusive reseller in France under an agreement during the last year, which will be this year Orange Mobile has signed an agreement for capacity on the EUTELSAT KONNECT satellite to deliver satellite service to its footprint.

DATA CENTRE

Equinix Commends digital infrastructure progress in West Africa

Equinix, the global digital infrastructure giant and parent company of MairixOne, has highlighted both the rapid progress and ongoing challenges facing digital infrastructure development in West Africa.

Abu Ezzamel, Equinix's Managing Director for West Africa, acknowledged strides made in Nigeria, Ghana, and Côte d'Ivoire while stressing that substantial digital potential.



"There's still a lot of work to be done, and a lot of digital year's disruptions," Abu Ezzamel said. He noted that both local governments and global entities such as the International Cable Protection Commission (ICPC) are taking action. Equinix Cable Redundancy Summit in Dubai in February 2022—the first ever hosted outside Europe.

He emphasized the importance of having data centers and submarine cables as critical national infrastructure, noting Equinix's ongoing investment in secure resilience. "We're routing traffic over multiple cables in West Africa on an active basis," he said, aiming to ensure automatic rerouting in the event of a cable failure.

He also addressed the "middle-mile" automation gap. "New cable capacity is needed but it needs to be supported by terrestrial fiber to reach end users—especially beyond coastal cities like Lagos, Accra and Abidjan."

Equinix, which operates in over 20 markets globally, entered the African market in 2022 with its \$320 million acquisition of MairixOne. The deal brought with it four operational data centers, a 2,000-kilometer submarine cable system linking Portugal to West Africa, and a 1,200-kilometer terrestrial fiber network across Nigerian states.

Looking ahead, Abu Ezzamel said Equinix plans to invest \$250 million over the next two years to expand digital infrastructure across the region, reinforcing its commitment to Africa's digital future.



DIGITAL FINANCE

ONAFRIQ MARKS 15 YEARS WITH 1B WALLETS



Dare-Okoudjou
Founder and CEO Onafriq

Onafriq Celebrates 15 Years: Advancing from Mobile Money Interoperability to Comprehensive Omnichannel Infrastructure

Onafriq, Africa's largest digital payments network, is celebrating its 15-year anniversary by announcing a significant milestone: close to 1 billion mobile money wallets and 600 million bank accounts are now connected through its infrastructure. Starting as a mobile money switch, Onafriq has transformed into a full omnichannel payments network. It facilitates cross-border disbursements, collections, card issuance and

processing, offline agent banking services, and FX & treasury services. At its core, Onafriq is providing digital interoperability across mobile wallets, bank accounts, cards, and offline payment channels – bringing Africa closer to a seamless and integrated financial future.

"We remain fully committed to connecting every individual and business in Africa with each other and the world," said Dare-Okoudjou, founder and CEO of Onafriq. "Fifteen years ago, we set out with a bold vision to connect Africa's mobile money systems and make borders matter less. What we've built since then is more than a network – it's a pan-African infrastructure layer that has evolved in lockstep with the continent's digital evolution. From mobile money to bank accounts, from remittances to real-time trade – we've grown as Africa has

grown. I'm incredibly proud of what we've achieved and even more excited about the road ahead."

From Mobile Wallet Interoperability to Omnichannel Infrastructure

Over the past 15 years, Onafriq has progressed from simply connecting mobile wallet schemes to a comprehensive interoperability layer for African finance, supporting various use cases from peer-to-peer transfers and merchant collections to card issuance, agency banking, and remittances.

Today, Onafriq's network connects:

- 481 million registered mobile wallets
- 484 million registered bank accounts
- More than 2,000 cross-border payment corridors

This robust infrastructure has facilitated access and usage across the continent, enabling everyone from rural beneficiaries of social payments to global fintechs operating in Africa.

Looking Ahead

As Onafriq embarks on its next chapter, the company aims to develop a network with greater local relevance while maintaining the scale of its pan-African infrastructure. With our relentless focus on building

DIGITAL FINANCE

onafriq

the foremost pan-African cross-border payment network, we continue to invest in creating infrastructure with local depth," said Dare-Okoudjou. "A prime example is Nigeria, where we are developing a unique payments stack that combines the strength of our cross-border network with the regulatory and foreign exchange realities of one of Africa's most dynamic economies. By building infrastructure that reflects local context, we can enable more relevant use cases to foster an ecosystem where usage is active, sustained, and impactful."

Onafriq is also exploring blockchain infrastructure and stablecoin integrations to facilitate near-instant, programmable payments – a crucial step towards real-time, interoperable trade across African currencies. These innovations align with the objectives of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) and are designed to help Africa bypass outdated payment systems in favour of a modern, mobile-first financial ecosystem.

With extensive experience, wide reach, and a proven execution track record, Onafriq remains dedicated to building a payment infrastructure that unlocks prosperity – both across borders and within local communities.

“With our relentless focus on building the foremost pan-African cross-border payment network, we continue to invest in creating infrastructure with local depth”

NEWS

WORLD'S FIRST FLEET OF 100 5G-A AUTONOMOUS ELECTRIC MINING TRUCKS LAUNCHED AT YIMIN MINE



A fleet of 100 Huaneng Ruichi autonomous electric mining trucks, the first of its kind in the world, has officially entered operation at the Yimin open-pit mine in Inner Mongolia, China.

Powered by a 5G-Advanced (5G-A) network, the mine became the world's first open-pit mine to achieve large-scale vehicle-cloud-network synergy, which has greatly improved production safety and set a new benchmark for intelligent mining.

As coal is China's primary energy source and key to its energy strategy, the country has been driving the transition towards a high-end, intelligent, and green

coal industry. To this end, China Huaneng has partnered with Yuzhou Construction Machinery Co., Ltd. (YCMC), Huawei Technologies Co., Ltd. (Huawei), and State Grid Smart Energy Co., Ltd. (SGESC) on a joint venture to develop the world's first, intelligent, autonomous, and intelligent open-pit mine transportation system, which promotes high-quality industry development.

Li Shuxun, Chairman of Huaneng Inner Mongolia Eastern Energy Co., Ltd., said at a launch event in Hubei that the company is fully working to drive an energy transition on May 10th that the company is fully working to drive an energy transition. As a key part of this effort, it is replacing traditional vehicles with electric ones to build safe, intelligent, and green mines.

Supported by technological innovations by

Huaneng Ruichi autonomous electric mining trucks are industry-leading in several areas: Each truck can carry a load of 90 metric tons and operate continuously in extreme cold of -40°C while achieving 90% of the comprehensive operational efficiency of a manually-driven truck. In addition, Huawei Cloud provides the Commercial Vehicle Autonomous Driving Cloud Service (CVADCS) that uses a crowdsourced map for real-time operational location updates. This enables fast route optimization, reduces waiting times, and improves operational efficiency, maximizing the strengths of collaborative truck fleet operations.

Furthermore, as the first autonomous mining truck in China without a driver's cabin, Huaneng trucks place personnel safety above all else, keeping them away from equipment hazards and harsh environments to greatly reduce related risks. It is a paramount challenge to safeguard personnel and equipment safety while improving productivity in extreme working conditions such as freezing temperatures at high altitudes, and heavy rain, snow, and dust. Addressing such challenges places high requirements on data processing and system collaboration capabilities.

Zhang Ping'an, Executive Director of Huawei and CEO of Huawei's Cloud Computing Business Unit, noted that Huawei has provided AI algorithms for open-pit mining. These algorithms enable precise sensing for autonomous vehicles and efficient collaboration on the cloud, which is uniquely suited to accelerating the coal mining industry's transition from manual to intelligent operations. This success case is an example of how digital and intelligent technologies can drive the high-quality development of the coal mining industry. It is not only a large-scale integration of 5G, cloud, AI, and China's innovative technologies, but an exploration into new energy industry scenarios.

The 5G-A network is deployed in the Yimin mine area to provide precise network coverage for autonomous driving routes, achieving smooth vehicle-cloud synergy. It is the world's first

open-pit mine powered by 5G-A, featuring 500 Mbps uplink and 30 ms latency, and providing solid network support for HD video, backhaul and cloud-based dispatching of autonomous mining trucks. In the future, 5G-A coverage will support 24/7 operations of more than 300 autonomous mining trucks in the mining area, further improving safety and efficiency.

Moving forward, Huawei will work alongside partners like China Huaneng, YCMC, and State Grid Smart Energy to upgrade mine transportation equipment and build safe, efficient, green, and zero-carbon intelligent mines. Together, they will continue to draw on the successful experience of the Yimin mine to facilitate digital and intelligent transformation of the global energy industry.

NEWS

