

# **THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN TELECOMMUNICATIONS AUTHORITY [ECTEL ]**



**The Development of ICTs In the  
ECTEL Member States**

# An Overview

- The ECTEL Regulatory Environment
- The ECTEL Structure
- Status of liberalization
- Challenges to ICT Development
- ECTEL TICT Project
- Opportunities for business

# What is ECTEL?

- A regional agency that provides advice, makes recommendations on telecommunications matters and helps to manage the sector in its Member States.
- Contracting States are: *Commonwealth of Dominica, Grenada, St. Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines.*
- Its Headquarters is located in Castries, Saint Lucia.

# Regulatory Environment in ECTEL Member States

- Stable political and legal environment;
- Open Entry, full Market Liberalization and competition;
- Harmonised Policies and Regulations;
- New Telecommunications Legislation promulgated;
- All providers of Telecommunications Services require a licence;
- Poor or non existent “e-legislation”

# Status of Liberalization

- All services are liberalized;
- All providers of Service require a licence;
- Exemptions are given based on type approved equipment or nature of service provider or service provided;
- A Harmonised regulatory regime
- High levels of penetration for mobile services;
- Low levels of growth in fixed line service;
- On going public consultations on several key issues to determine policy;

# Structure of ECTEL

**Council of Ministers**  
(Ministers of Telecoms in each State)

**Board of Directors**  
(one delegate from each state  
nominated by Telecoms Minister)

**ECTEL Secretariat**  
(Managing Director, Professional, Technical  
and Support Staff)

# FUNCTIONS OF ECTEL

- ➡ Co-ordinate with, and advise the Member States on the conduct and regulation of telecommunications;
- ➡ Recommend a regional policy for the conduct of telecommunications, in Spectrum management, Universal service, Interconnection, Numbering and Pricing;

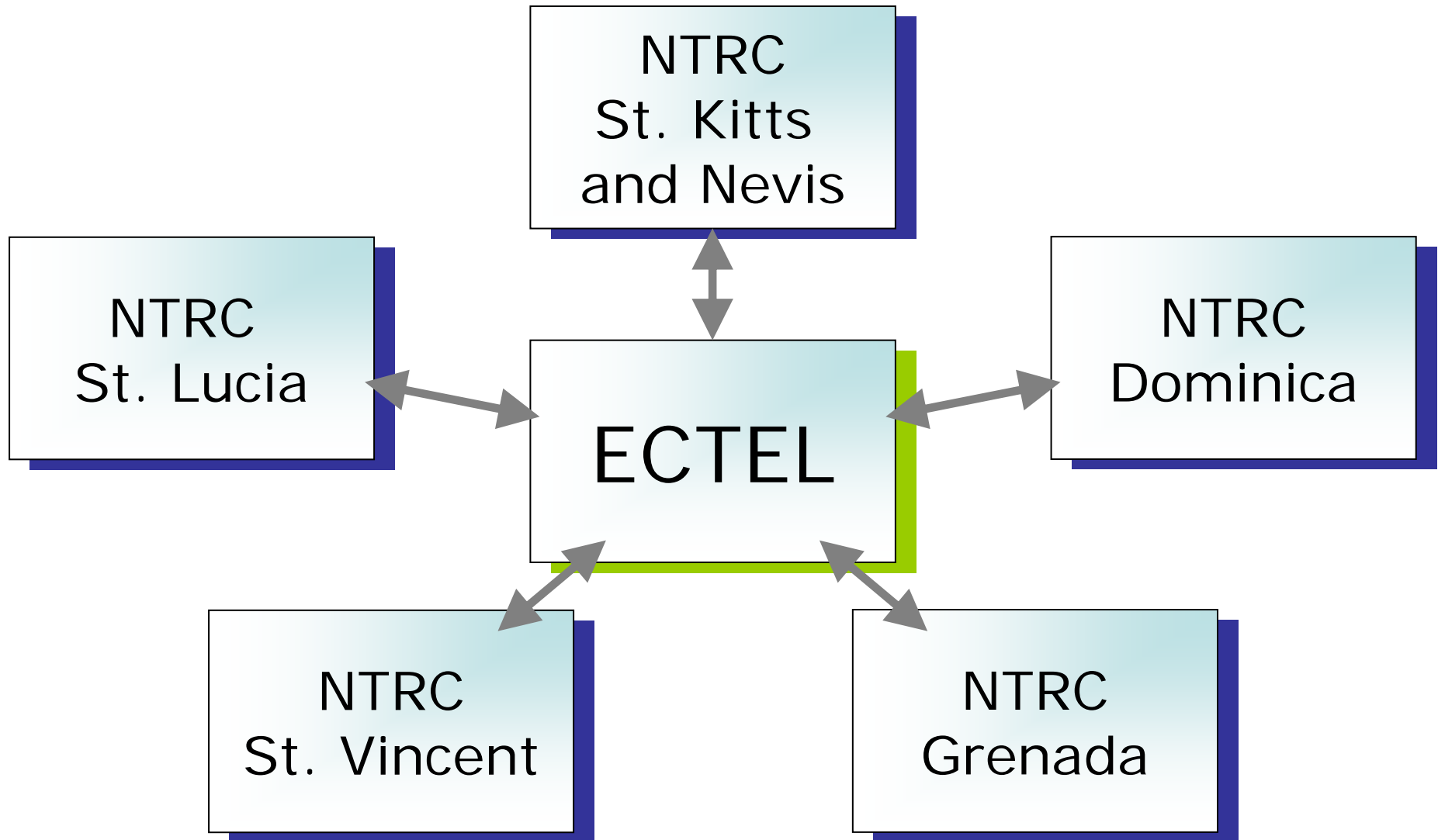
# FUNCTIONS OF ECTEL

- Design and operate open tender procedures for individual licences as requested by Member States;
- Review and recommend applicants who satisfy the relevant technical and financial requirements for individual licences.
- Recommend terms and conditions to be included in a licence

# The National Telecommunications Regulatory Commissions (NTRCs)

- A National Telecommunications Regulator in each island;
- They are the implementing agencies that interface between users and providers
- They inform, monitor and enforce regulations

# Relationship between ECTEL and NTRCs



# Challenges for ICT development

- Broadband access limited due to price and capacity issues;
- Technical expertise to support the sector is scarce;
- Inadequate legal framework for “e-anything”;
- Small entrepreneurs as yet unable to benefit significantly from liberalization;

# Addressing the issues

- There have been successes in mobile penetration but fixed and internet services remain a problem;
- A new Telecommunications and ICT project has been launched;
- New initiatives in fibre optic submarine cable coming to provide competition and reduce costs;

# Telecommunications and ICT project

- New Telecommunications and ICT Project designed to strengthen the regulatory framework; launched October 2005
- Specific elements to address determining the cost of accessing the various networks;
- Emphasis on increasing access to affordable broadband capacity;
- Pilot Projects to develop sustainable “ICT Model” projects;
- Universal Service mechanisms to be finalized;

# Submarine Cable initiatives

- Licensing regulation and licence templates developed for submarine cable
- Several licences issued
- Antilles Crossing linking St. Lucia and Barbados to North American continent under construction
- Guadeloupe Numerique linking Guadeloupe to Puerto Rico and including Dominica and St. Kitts under development
- Martinique Numerique to follow shortly

# Opportunities

- There are several opportunities that exist in the OECS;
- Licences for any service is available;
- Several Consultancies are required in Broadband Access, Universal Service mechanisms and Legislative drafting;
- Relatively low take up in Broadband and fixed present the opportunity for investment.

# Opportunities (2)

- Complementary Services such as advertising, maintenance, Training and seminars;
- Provision of broadband capacity using existing networks (Cable, mobile e.t.c);
- Conduct of Studies and research (environmental impact assessment, market analysis and financial engineering)

# Conclusion

- Developments in telecommunications liberalisation continue in the OECS at a steady pace
- Investment opportunities exist;
- ECTEL offers any assistance that its limited resources can provide in guiding the potential investors through the process;
- The greatest time saving device is tomorrow; the time for action is now

# Thank YOU

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