



Avanti Communications and Free in Senegal sign landmark agreement to build and host new HYLAS 4 satellite gateway in Senegal

Dakar, Senegal, May 23 2022 - Avanti Communications ("Avanti") and Free in Senegal today announced a five-year partnership agreement under which Free in Senegal will build and host a new satellite gateway in Senegal for Avanti's HYLAS 4 state-of-the-art Ka-band satellite.

The new gateway will extend the coverage of Avanti's latest satellite, HYLAS 4, to Senegal and the neighbouring West African countries of Guinea, Sierra Leone, Guinea Bissau, Gambia and Liberia, as well as completing Avanti's coverage of Ivory Coast. The expanded coverage will significantly increase access to high-speed satellite internet for the countries' schools, hospitals and communities.

The new gateway will also provide satellite backhaul services to Avanti's carrier customers, extending their reach to rural areas and other semi-urban locations where terrestrial networks are currently limited or unreliable.

Free Senegal will build and operate the new gateway from its Tier III data centre facility in Diamniadio outside the capital Dakar, adding Avanti as a strategic customer to its growing enterprise business in Senegal and supporting the Government's Digital Senegal 2025 strategy.

Amongst the many positives of increased connectivity, the partnership is due to make a big impact on education, enabling e-learning services for schools across the region. Pending approval from the Senegalese authorities, the gateway is planned to go live in December 2022.

Kyle Whitehill, CEO of Avanti Communications, commented: "This strategic partnership with Free in Senegal demonstrates our commitment to working with local partners in Africa such as Free in order to increase the coverage of our satellite fleet - benefitting countries and territories that are often overlooked when it comes to high-speed broadband. We are looking forward to working with the Free team to make this vision a reality."

Mamadou Mbengue, CEO of Free in Senegal, added: "We are delighted that Avanti has chosen Free to be their gateway partner in Senegal, recognising the capabilities offered by the Free team and our data centre facility in Diamniadio. This agreement between Avanti and Free to build the gateway and provide Ka-band satellite coverage across Senegal and the neighboring countries is a major milestone in our digital transformation agenda."

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NOTES TO EDITORS

About Avanti Communications

Avanti Communications is the leading Ka-band high throughput satellite capacity partner to the communications industry in EMEA - extending and guaranteeing coverage for defence missions, enterprise solutions and critical public services.

Through the HYLAS satellite fleet and partners in 118 countries, Avanti provides dedicated fixed and flexible-beam satellite connectivity, with extensive coverage across Europe, the Middle East and Africa. Avanti has invested \$1.2bn in a network that incorporates orbital slots in Ka-band spectrum, satellites, ground stations, datacentres and a fibre ring.

www.avanti.space

About Free in Senegal

Free in Senegal is a leading provider of telecommunication services based in Senegal. The company specializes in optical fibre connectivity, 4G mobile networks and online money transfer solutions, catering to individuals and businesses, enabling its customers to connect to a faster network.

Free Senegal is part of a consortium consisting of NJJ, Teyliom group and AXIAN Telecom.

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