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Paper 1:

Topic: Planning and Rollout Strategies for broadband wireless networks in developing countries.

Abstract: Wireless systems have proved to be effective solutions in the provision of last mile connectivity and as a tool for bridging the digital divide in many developing countries. It is extremely difficult for network operators in developing countries to rollout and operate cable-based networks due to long distances, difficult terrain, forests, rivers, deserts, lack of electricity and poor roads among others. Wireless systems can bypass some of these geographical hindrances and can be rolled out rapidly to provide services in remote and underserved areas particularly in semi urban and urban areas in developing countries. This paper will highlight steps that are important to follow during the planning and implementation stages for wireless networks including feasibility and economic studies, site surveys, design, installation and commissioning. The paper will highlight important parameters to consider when evaluating wireless systems. A short demonstration of a wireless network-planning tool shall follow the presentation.