

**Press Release**

**OGERO Telecom gears Lebanon's new push towards advanced communication network**

*Government adopting innovative strategies to stem and reverse brain drain flow says Engineer Hamdan*

Lebanon has the highest penetration on fixed lines, Internet users and PC installed base among the Levant countries. Led by OGERO Telecom, the government-owned telecom operator, Lebanon is now poised to launch a host of advanced and innovative services as part of a strategy to enhance its world-class communications infrastructure.

According to the Dubai-based Madar Research Group, Lebanon ranks sixth among 18 Arab countries in the ICT Use Index. It leads the Levant region in terms of fixed lines penetration of 15.7 per cent, Internet penetration of 11.8 per cent and PC penetration with 7.2 per cent. Lebanon has a 2,000 km fibre optic network with a capacity of 1.2 million fixed lines, with over 700,000 subscribers to the fixed line network, operated by OGERO.

“Lebanon has adopted a strategy that will see the highest fixed line penetration for a country from among the others in the region,” said Engineer Mohammed Fouad Hamdan, Chairman and General Manager, OGERO Telecom. “The strong growth witnessed by Lebanon over the past few years is remarkable, yet the country is still set to achieve maturity in the telecom business, powered by a government determined to push forward with innovative initiatives and advanced strategies.”

OGERO offers its services on one of the most advanced telecommunications platform in the Middle East. The fibre-optic backbone is based on SDH (Synchronous Digital Hierarchy) and supports various protocols with a countrywide coverage. Besides, OGERO has installed a Gigabit Ethernet network offering broadband services.

“Lebanon, which boasts one of the highest literacy rates in the Arab world, is known for its vibrant IT sector. The dramatic changes taking place in the ICT sector signal a new transformation that will be reflected in the availability of highly advanced telecom services,” said Hamdan. “A new work culture is sweeping the country. The private sector is working in close collaboration with the government to implement new strategies aimed at creating the perfect environment that will ultimately reverse the brain drain witnessed in Lebanon over the past two decades.”

The expanding PC base in Lebanon has led to the presence of seven Internet service providers in Lebanon, offering dial-up, leased lines or satellite connections, according to Madar. With OGERO leading the way, Internet users are expected to get more innovative services.

“Over the next few months, OGERO will unveil a series of advanced services that will considerably enhance Lebanon’s standing in the field of ICT in the Arab world,” added Hamdan. “This, we expect, will lead to gaining new subscribers across the country, as the portfolio of services would be enlarged significantly.”

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