

Helios Towers Tanzania, Vodacom joins forces

Helios Towers Africa (HTA), an independent telecoms towers company in Africa, has announced that its Tanzanian subsidiary, Helios Towers Tanzania ("HTT" or "the Company") has reached an agreement with Vodacom Tanzania Limited ("Vodacom"), to acquire 100% of its existing tower network in the country for stock and cash in the Vodacom Group's first ever towers transaction.



The partnership between HTT and Vodacom involves the transfer of 1,149 existing telecoms towers from Vodacom to HTT and a commitment to an ambitious, short-term rollout which will see a significant increase in points of service owned by HTT and more than doubles HTT's existing presence in Tanzania.

Transaction highlights

- HTT acquires all of Vodacom's existing passive infrastructure and supplies Vodacom with a significant increase in points of service in Tanzania;
- Vodacom to lease back the infrastructure subject to a long term contract; and
- Pro forma for the acquisition, HTA will be providing close to 2,700 points of service to Vodacom and affiliates across Africa

The deal will expand HTA's tower coverage in Africa to 4,700 owned towers and is another example of HTA partnering with an industry-leading mobile network operator in Africa. This partnership model is core to HTA's offering.

By collaborating with its customers and being solely focused on providing a telecoms infrastructure solution, HTA helps its customers to achieve their goals of reducing operating cost, preserving capital, focusing on their core business, and mitigating the proliferation of towers through infrastructure sharing, as it expands network coverage and capacity to meet demand and improve quality of service.

The structure of the cash and shares transaction, which involves Vodacom acquiring a 24.5% share in HTT, also demonstrates the belief and confidence of a leading African telecoms operator in the business model of tower sharing and in the business model and operational capabilities of HTA.

The transaction is subject to customary closing conditions and regulatory approvals.

Says Chuck Green, chief executive officer of HTA, "HTA is proud to be chosen by Vodacom as its partner for the ownership and management of its existing infrastructure and as the solution provider for its future roll out. This is a ground-breaking move for Vodacom and its equity investment is a significant endorsement of HTA's reputation, management team and operating track record."

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