

Intelligens Consulting was commissioned by the African Development Bank to assess the commercial case to fund rural 4G infill

ABOUT OUR CLIENT

- The Government of Lesotho, with support from the African Development Bank (AfDB), were looking to invest some USD 12.8 million to support investment in fibre networks and in extending the rollout of mobile connectivity into rural areas of Lesotho, southern Africa

THE CHALLENGE

- Specifically, it was the Government's intention to achieve close to 100% 4G coverage across Lesotho, particularly unserved rural areas
- The investment requirement was an estimate and required commercial validation based on coverage gaps, demand assessment and tower and fibre network cost modelling
- In addition, the mobile coverage requirements were uncertain and potential coverage areas required verification

HOW WE HELPED

- Intelligens Consulting undertook a review of mobile coverage gaps and fibre infrastructure requirements through primary and desktop research and a series of stakeholder consultations with the communications regulator, the Government and fixed and mobile operators in Lesotho
- AfDB and the Government were advised to enact promptly to support this investment in Lesotho's digital economy which was expected to realise significant social and economic benefits

KEY OUTCOMES



48 tower sites

covering some 39 areas were proposed to be financed



96 km

Estimated OPGW fibre required to provide mobile backhaul



USD 56 million

Estimated economic value supporting 238 new jobs