



## **27 August 2014 Press Release: Project Isizwe launches Free WiFi in the Western Cape**

Good news for Robertson and Atlantis residents is that the much anticipated Public WiFi service is live. Project Isizwe launches Free WiFi services to communities in Atlantis on the 27<sup>th</sup> August 2014 and Robertson on 29th August 2014. This project forms part of a R1.3 billion plan to eventually connect all Western Cape residents to the Internet.

Western Cape Premier Helen Zille said at the launch in Atlantis that the Western Cape Government was one step closer towards its goal of connecting the whole province to affordable internet.

“Residents of Atlantis will now have an opportunity to connect to the internet to access a range of opportunities including finding jobs, start and expanding businesses and completing school projects,” said Premier Zille. I encourage everyone to take advantage of this new facility and the range of economic opportunities it will provide access too” she said.

Each of these Free Internet Zones (FIZs) allows users with WiFi enabled devices including mobile phones, tablets, laptops and desktop computers to connect to **WC Free WiFi** and access free Internet without any logins or passwords.

A fair usage policy limits users to a data cap of 250MB per device per day and prohibits access to certain websites e.g. adult content, to protect against abuse of the free service.

Besides allowing users 250MB per day of free browsing, a specialised content portal, ‘Tobetsa’ allows unlimited browsing of government online services, as well as educational and job-searching resources such as Wikipedia, Siyavula and Gumtree.

This portal is designed to give Free WiFi users the opportunity to make the most of what the Internet has to offer and will be available for unlimited access in Project Isizwe Free Internet Zones.

Minister of economic opportunities, Alan Winde said the prohibitive cost of bandwidth had previously restricted access to internet for many.

“A 5GB bundle on a mobile device typically costs R362. Through this initiative, residents of Atlantis will be able to access that same amount of data for free over a month’s period. It’s been proven that internet access is a major catalyst for job creation. The World Bank estimates that every 10%



increase in high speed internet in developing countries results in a 1.3% increase in economic growth,” said Minister Wende.

Minister of Education Debbie Schäfer said the free WiFi would improve education and “enable teachers to access this material in order to assist them with teaching techniques as well as accessing additional material to make their lessons more interesting”.

By providing Free WiFi around learning institutions in Atlantis and Robertson and promoting educational content, children and teachers can access online libraries to maximise their learning opportunities and supplement the formal curriculum.

Four public schools in each town have been chosen as the focal points, resulting in Free Internet Zones (FIZs) that are now available at the following schools:

**Robertson:**

Langeberg Secondary School: 1,750 children will be reached

Vergesig: 970 children will be reached

Nqubela Secondary School: 750 children will be reached

Masakheke Combined School: 453 children will be reached

**Atlantis:**

Saxon Sea: 1,380 children will be reached

Atlantis Secondary: 1,700 will be reached

Robinvale HS: 1,163 will be reached

Proteus Technical: 1,186 will be reached



## **Partner Comments**

### **Neotel South Africa**

Focus on faster broadband speeds and wider availability is a strategic priority for Neotel which is aligned with that of South Africa as the increase in broadband penetration has a direct impact on GDP growth. Public-private partnerships, such as the one between Western Cape government and Neotel and now between Project Isizwe, Western Cape Government and Neotel, have a critical role to play in helping achieve South Africa's vision and its broadband targets. As part of the project, Neotel plays the role of being the strategic partner for Isizwe to provide connectivity to over 6 000 school children in Atlantis, and with the broader community also set to benefit, as the estimated WiFi capacity caters for 20,000 users in area.

Sunil Joshi, MD and CEO of Neotel said at the launch, "Neotel is incredibly pleased to be so intrinsically involved with Project Isizwe. Today, access to the internet has become a basic need for every individual. Increasing broadband access to South Africans has positive and far reaching economic benefits for the community and we look forward to working with Project Isizwe so that we can all look forward to a more connected South Africa".

### **Westcon Southern Africa**

"Technology is not only a great enabler, it is also a great leveller, and by providing access to free Wi-Fi in these areas and in these educational institutions we are giving our youth and communities the tools they need to improve themselves and the future generations they will have an impact on," Tiens Lange, communication solutions director at Westcon Southern Africa.

### **Ruckus Wireless**

"As the traditional model of education is evolving, schools and colleges are facing increasing challenges to provide higher-speed, more reliable Wi-Fi to students, teachers and staff. New mandates such as digital textbooks and 1:1 initiatives require entire classes to concurrently get online to view material, collaborate on projects and present their work. As such, schools everywhere are looking beyond current access models to the new generation of Wi-Fi technology to support more users and diverse applications. Technology and by extension Wi-Fi, has become an integral part of educating students all around the world. However schools need strong security, full coverage, and consistent connections even when entire classes start sending videos at the same



**PROJECT ISIZWE**  
Free WiFi for South Africa

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time. Fortunately, Ruckus Smart Wi-Fi provides the technology that gives schools a cost-effective wireless infrastructure that's in a class by itself, and as a proud Wi-Fi partner of choice for Project Isizwe, today the students of Atlantis Secondary School can now enjoy the use of Internet in the classroom, offering a richer and more interactive learning experience.” Michael Fletcher, sales director at Ruckus Wireless sub-Saharan Africa.

### **About Project Isizwe**

Project Isizwe (“Isizwe” is a Xhosa word meaning “nation”, “tribe”, and “people”) is a non-profit organisation, which aims to bring the Internet to people across South Africa, by facilitating the rollout of free WiFi for public spaces in low-income communities.

The core focus of Project Isizwe is to work with Governments (Local, Provincial and National) to provide WiFi in low-income communities for the purpose of education, economic development and social inclusion and use it as a catalyst for change.

The Tshwane Free WiFi project implemented by Project Isizwe has connected over 100,000 people since November 2013. A major expansion was recently launched, with more than 200 FIZ sites allowing for the capacity to connect 1 million people.

Project Isizwe: Animated explainer video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tf2Z8dAWCQ0>

For more information about Project Isizwe, you can contact us here: [www.projectisizwe.org](http://www.projectisizwe.org)  
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