JOINT-VENTURE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF DATA CENTRES IN D.R. CONGO
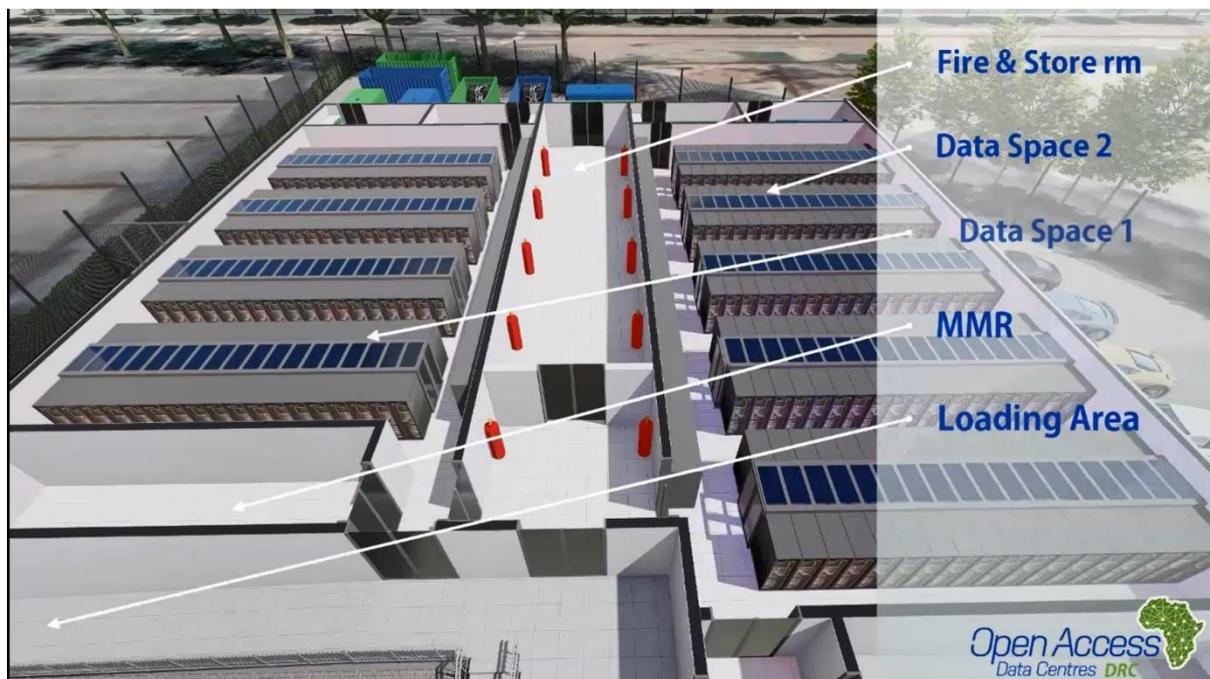
Regulated Information

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Open Access Data Centres (OADC) and TEXAF partner for data centre[1] rollout in DRC

Leading African data centre operator, **Open Access Data Centres (OADC)**, a **WIOCC Group** Company, and **TEXAF**, a major investor in the economy of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), are partnering to build and operate data centres in the DRC.

The first data centre will be located in the central business district of Kinshasa, within **TEXAF's SILIKIN VILLAGE**, which, in 2023, will be the largest hub in Central Africa for digital activities. The data centre is expected to be operational from the 1st quarter of 2023. The facility will be carrier-neutral and open access, which will maximise interconnection opportunities for all customers, and it will be designed and operated to international standards[2] , such as Uptime Institute Tier III, ISO 9001 and PCI-DSS.

As the first carrier-neutral data centre in the DRC, the facility will be extremely well placed to meet the needs of cloud operators, content providers, telecoms operators and internet service providers, as well as key verticals including finance, institutional clients and Government.

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[1] A data centre is a critical part of the internet infrastructure. It hosts the data and connects the networks that businesses and consumers use every day.
[2] Tier III data centres have multiple paths for power and cooling, redundant systems and an expected uptime of 99.982% per year.

This initiative is particularly timely with both Google's Equiano and the Facebook-led 2Africa subsea cables due to land on the Atlantic coast of the DRC within a year. Together, they will bring a huge increase in availability and reliability of international internet connectivity in Western DRC.

The impact of **OADC** and **TEXAF**'s data centre on the digital development of the DRC cannot be understated. It will

- improve reliability and speed of access to the ever-growing volumes of data needed by local banks, telcos, government agencies, as well as supporting data sovereignty initiatives
- enable local delivery of global content - improving latency, optimising utilisation of international capacity and lowering carbon footprint
- embody carrier-neutral principles that will increase competition and contribute to the expected decrease in cost of internet connections for the Congolese people and companies
- thereby become a major enabler for the emergence and further development of a digital ecosystem in DRC

Philippe Croonenberghs, chairman of **TEXAF**, declared "*We are particularly proud to be the first mover in an essential building block of the digital ecosystem. This fully validates our strategy of attracting international industry leaders such as* **OADC** *to the DRC and to our new* **SILIKIN VILLAGE** hub. *It is also a recognition of our standing in the country*."

Chris Wood, Group CEO of **WIOCC**, declared *"We are delighted to be working with* **TEXAF** *to extend the rollout of our world-class, carrier-neutral, open access data centres into the DRC. Their long-standing local experience, extensive connections and detailed market knowledge make them the ideal partner in building the DRC's digital ecosystem, which will enable the country to fully realise the benefits of Africa's digital transformation."*

TEXAF (www.texaf.be), established in 1925, is the only listed company with all its activities in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Currently, these are concentrated on property and quarries. More recently, TEXAF has decided to develop a new activity in the digital domain. TEXAF aims to become a major player in this sector.

This listing on the stock exchange and the resulting obligations in terms of good governance and transparency constitute a major asset of the Group for its development and for the promotion of the formal sector in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Open Access Data Centres (OADC) (www.openaccessdc.net) has been established to transform the provision of data centre services in Africa. As a WIOCC Group (wiocc.net) company, it leverages strong existing relationships with clients in Africa and well-established delivery capabilities across the continent, together with the proven and long-standing data centre expertise of the OADC Executive team.

The company is implementing a world-class, pan-African, carrier-neutral data centre footprint including hyperscale, regional and edge data centres, that will deliver an unparalleled client experience offering expert assistance and support, partnership in tailoring bespoke solutions and leading-edge information systems to support client business decision-making. OADC is an environmentally responsible company and as such is pursuing a wide range of environmental and management accreditations.

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