



Press release

SILIKIN VILLAGE

Inauguration of the largest entrepreneurship and innovation hub in the DRC and Central Africa

Kinshasa, October 10th, 2024

His Excellency the President of the Republic, Félix Antoine Tshisekedi Tshilombo, Head of State, solemnly inaugurated Silikin Village on 10 October. H.E. Augustin Kibassa Malimba, Minister of Posts, Telecoms and the Digital Economy, welcomed him with these words: "With this vision, the Democratic Republic of Congo has embarked on its digital transformation project.

Silikin Village is the largest entrepreneurship and innovation hub in the Democratic Republic of Congo and, more broadly, in Central Africa. Its mission is to become an essential platform for start-ups, SMEs and large companies looking to innovate in Central Africa, with a strong focus on social and economic impact. Modern infrastructure, strategic support, incubation programmes... everything is done to support local and international talent.



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"Silikin Village is a real catalyst for innovation and development in the DRC, and not just a simple workspace. This new phase marks our commitment to providing local entrepreneurs and international companies with the resources and environment they need to thrive in a growing market full of opportunities," explained Gérald Croonenberghs, TEXAF Group Director.

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It consists of a new 6,000 m² building, in addition to the existing 4,000 m², set in a 32,000 m² compound, with coworking spaces, meeting rooms, an auditorium and state-of-the-art technological infrastructure. This major initiative is part of an ambitious vision to position the DRC as a leading catalyst for innovation in Central Africa, for both local players and international start-ups.

The inauguration ceremony is part of the National Digital Plan - Horizon 2025, a strategic plan initiated by the President of the Republic with the aim of transforming the country into an integrated digital society, promoting good governance, economic growth and social progress.



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Being a driving force for entrepreneurship in the DRC...

Silikin Village aims to be a pillar of support for young entrepreneurs and SMEs in the DRC and the region. During the event, discussions will highlight the challenges of long-term support, training and the integration of digital technology into educational programmes.

Silikin Village is campaigning for

- The adoption of a legislative framework favourable to start-ups - with initiatives such as the "Startup Act".
- Recognition of the hub as a special economic zone dedicated to innovation.
- Incorporating entrepreneurship and fundamental digital processes into school and university curricula, regardless of subject.

...And a transitional space for international companies wishing to set up in the DRC

Silikin Village also offers foreign companies a soft landing programme, providing them with access to local business networks and technical resources.

Silikin Village is also home to the DRC's first data centre

The Silikin Village site is also home to the DRC's first open data centre certified to international UpTime Tier 3 standards, through its partnership with OADC, a subsidiary of the pan-African WIOCC group. This data centre plays a key role in the country's digital transformation by offering local and international businesses a reliable infrastructure to support their connectivity and data hosting needs. With this facility, the DRC has acquired an essential tool for strengthening its integration into the global digital economy and fostering the emergence of technological innovations.

TEXAF, founded in 1925, is the only listed company to carry out all its activities in the Democratic Republic of Congo. These currently focus on real estate, careers and digital.

This listing on the stock exchange and the resulting obligations of good governance and transparency represent a major asset for the Group in terms of developing and promoting the formal sector in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

*Real estate activity is focused on the **UTEXAFRICA** complex, which brings together housing, offices and shops on a 50-hectare site along the River Congo. The complex also offers a range of services to local residents, including sports and leisure facilities, the **TEXAF BILEMBO** cultural centre, maintenance services and office fit-outs In the same district, it also includes the **SILIKIN VILLAGE** complex and the Petit-Pont building. Ten kilometres away, it also includes 87 hectares of land earmarked for the **JARDINS DE KINSUKA** project.*

*The quarry business is managed by **CARRIGRES**, which operates a sandstone quarry in Kinshasa with a nominal capacity of 600,000 tonnes, supplying the road and concrete sectors.*

*TEXAF, convinced of the opportunity that the digital economy represents for the DRC, has made it a third branch of activity. In September 2019, it launched its **SILIKIN VILLAGE** initiative, which involves providing workspaces and training facilities for the emerging digital ecosystem, as well as a range of training, coaching and conferences. It also aims to partner with international groups to set up new infrastructures and services in the DRC.*

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