Ekinops selected by Bandwidth & Cloud Services Group to deliver network backbone for next-gen connectivity in Africa

Paris, November 30th, 2022 – Ekinops (Euronext Paris - FR0011466069 – EKI), a leading optical transport and network access specialist, today announced that it has been selected by telecom infrastructure provider, Bandwidth & Cloud Services Group (BCS), for its network backbone upgrade, which will enhance connectivity throughout Africa.

BCS is a Pan-African wholesale telecom infrastructure provider with fiber connectivity solutions across Eastern, Central and Southern Africa. It is the region's premier partner for backhaul data and cloud services to mobile operators and service providers. Throughout its network, BCS estimates that its projects support approximately one-third of all internet capacity by data volume in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Rwanda, South Sudan and Uganda. Customers in these regions account for two-thirds of all data subscribers who rely on BCS's network for approximately half of their capacity needs.

As part of an ambitious expansion project following years of growth, BCS aims to improve connectivity and reduce latency in the region. After a competitive tender process, which saw Ekinops draw on its experience supporting previous network upgrades, BCS selected Ekinops' DWDM transport solution for its planned backbone expansion. The project involves long-distance regional optical transport networks capable of 1Tbps (terabit per second) capacity across Africa and urban connectivity upgrades through 44 metro ring deployments offering 10G traffic from Points of Presence (PoP) and towers to the network hub.

"As one of the leading telecoms infrastructure providers in Africa, it is essential that our network along the railroads in Zimbabwe and DRC, as well as planned submarine cables in Lake Tanganyika and Congo River, aligns with current and future trends and demands," **commented John Orutwa, Chief Technical Officer from BCS**. "Having worked with Ekinops on our previous major network expansion, we were already aware of their advanced technology, close, partnership-led approach and world-leading expertise. We are excited to work with them again as key partners in our ambitious expansion plans unlocking next-gen connectivity throughout Africa."

Frank Dedobbeleer, Group Senior Vice President Sales EMEA & APAC at Ekinops, said: "Ekinops is proud to be working with BCS and the telecom ecosystem in Africa to unlock next-gen connectivity and support the continually evolving digital economies throughout the region. Thanks to our comprehensive network backbone solution, BCS

is ready to face the future with confidence, equipped with a highly dynamic, flexible, scalable and cost-effective optical transport network."

Supplying its Ekinops360 optical transport portfolio, Ekinops will increase BCS' backbone capacity with both single and dual fiber capabilities, aggregating low capacity circuits to high bit rate protocols to deliver speeds ranging from 1Gbps (gigabit per second) to 1 Tbps. The solution also accommodates future demand for backbone capacity increases through FlexRate™ coherent channels, to extend the network's reach/capacity throughout the region.

For more information about Ekinops, please visit:
https://www.ekinops.com/solutions/optical-transport

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Contact

For further media information, or to schedule an interview with Ekinops, please contact Fraser Kay, iseepr +44(0) 113 350 1922 / fraser@iseepr.co.uk

About Ekinops

Ekinops is a leading provider of open, trusted and innovative network connectivity solutions to service providers around the world. Our programmable and highly scalable solutions enable the fast, flexible, and cost-effective deployment of new services for both high-speed, high-capacity optical transport as well as virtualization-enabled managed enterprise services.

Our product portfolio consists of three highly complementary product and service sets: EKINOPS360, OneAccess and Compose.

- EKINOPS360 provides optical transport solutions for metro, regional and long-distance networks with WDM for high-capacity point-to-point, ring, and optical mesh architectures, and OTN for improved bandwidth utilization and efficient multi-service aggregation.

- OneAccess offers a wide choice of physical and virtualized deployment options for Layer 2 and Layer 3 access network functions.

- Compose supports service providers in making their networks software-defined with a variety of software management tools and services, including the scalable SD-WAN Xpress and SixSq Edge-to-Cloud solutions.

As service providers embrace SDN and NFV deployment models, Ekinops enables future-proofed deployment today, enabling operators to seamlessly migrate to an open, virtualized delivery model at a time of their choosing.

A global organization, Ekinops (EKI) - a public company traded on the Euronext Paris exchange operates on four continents.

Name : Ekinops

ISIN Code : FR0011466069

Mnemonic code : EKI

Number of shares : 26 266 276

For more information, visit http://www.ekinops.com/

About BCS

Bandwidth and Cloud Services (BCS Group) is a Pan-African carrier-neutral telecom infrastructure provider specializing in Fiber optic connectivity solutions, reaching an estimated 80m+ end users with a network coverage spanning over 13,000 Kms of terrestrial fiber.

Bandwidth and Cloud Services has a presence in East, Central, and Southern Africa regions, offering wholesale internet, fiber transmission & construction services to telecom operators, ISPs and Content Providers. Operating in Angola, The Democratic Republic of Congo, (DRC), Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, and Malawi, BCS further serves Ethiopia, Botswana, Burundi, Namibia, and South Sudan at their respective border points.

https://www.bcs-ea.com/about.html