

**OVERVIEW**

The telecommunications sector in Tunisia received \$500 million in investment during the VII year plan (87-91). The situation in the communications sector in Tunisia is comparable to those prevailing in other North African countries. During the seventh plan just completed, Tunisia connected 113,000 lines compared to the 203,000 initially expected. The level of subscribers in December 1991 was 330,000 compared with the 420,000 planned. The telephone density now reaches 4.02 lines per 100 people, rather than 5 lines per 100 people as initially expected.



**DEVELOPMENT FORECAST (92-96):  
OPPORTUNITIES FOR CANADIAN EXPORTERS**

Installation of 460,000 subscribers' equipment, connection of 339,000 new subscribers for a total in 1996 of 669,000 Tunisia subscribers with a density of 7.4 main line per 100 people by 1996.

These objectives will require investments estimated at US \$1.26 billion, with \$350 million dedicated to existing projects. New telecommunications projects will include public switching equipment - \$373 million, transmission systems - \$145 million, subscriber lines - \$292 million. In addition, US \$100 million will be allocated to projects to be specified early in 1993. Sectors offering the best opportunities for Canada are: rural telephones, cable TV equipment and services, public and private switching, paging and radio-telephone system, microwave transmission links, spectrum management.

Zimbabwe PTC is 100% owned by the Government of Zimbabwe. The company's investment program for the next five years is as follows (in order of priority):

**Materials for Network Improvement**

The present fault ratio is about 2.4 faults per mainline and has increased 30-40% in about five years. As well, the average fault repair time has doubled in the same period. About 50% of real faults occur in subscribers' apparatus and overhead lines. PTC will therefore focus on imports of spare parts for the whole network and locally-produced material for preventative maintenance and overhead lines and subscriber apparatus as given by Telecom Operations.

**External Line Plant - Cables and Accessories**

The objective is to provide for local subscriber network replacement and expansion in Harare, Bulawayo and other major cities. Most network undertakings are connected to digitalization. The planned switching capacity is roughly: Julius Nyerere (49,600); Cranborne (6,000); Borrowdale (7,000); Glenview (15,000); Highlands (12,000); Southerton (22,700); Matebeleland Province including Bulawayo (157,100).

**Subscriber Equipment**

The five-year procurement estimate for telephones is 120,000 (50,000 in 1993, 27,000 in each of 1994, 1995 and 1996 and the remainder in 1996/1997). Annual procurement of payphones is set at 400 per year. Fax bureaux are planned for major post offices, requiring 200 machines in the five year period. In addition, PTC is solely responsible for provision of PABX's to government departments. The present waiting list is 209 department units, corresponding to about 22,640 extension lines. 30,000 telephone sets are also included. The procurement of extensions lines is as follows: 1993-5,200; 1994-10,040; 1995-7,400.