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SATELLITE BROADBAND AND THE TRANSITION TO DIRECT-TO-CELL CONNECTIVITY



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The Nigerian telecommunications industry is undergoing a substantial transformation as satellite-based internet services shift from being niche enterprise solutions to becoming mainstream consumer options. The Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) plays a pivotal role in this evolution by actively licensing Non-Geostationary Orbit (NGSO) providers, which is steering the market towards the implementation of "Direct-to-Cell" (D2C) technology.

This transformation is part of a global movement, primarily driven by Low Earth Orbit (LEO) constellations. These constellations enable standard, unmodified smartphones to connect directly to satellites, providing messaging and data services even in areas where terrestrial mast coverage is absent.

For stakeholders, this technological progression represents not only a significant step in bridging the "digital divide" but also the introduction of a fresh regulatory landscape.

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In this new environment, space-based infrastructure is poised to enhance traditional fiber-optic networks, particularly by supporting and accelerating the digital economy's expansion into rural areas.

This evolution marks a critical phase in ensuring that telecommunications infrastructure keeps pace with technological advancements and meets the increasing demand for connectivity.

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