

TELECOMMUNICATIONS AUTHORITY OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Annual Report 2021 - 2022



DIGITAL INCLUSION

Smarter Living for Everyone





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Corporate Information

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Facebook



Twitter



Instagram



LinkedIn



YouTube





Vision

The leading regulator in the ICT sector, enabling an empowered and connected society.



Mission

We will continue developing a dynamic, collaborative and progressive ICT environment, through efficient service delivery, that fosters quality, affordable, universal service and innovative, sustainable businesses in the digital economy.



Core Values

Innovativeness

Using initiative, fresh and imaginative thinking, and consistently creative introduction of new and original ideas that add value to the organisation

Commitment

Dedication to organisation and its goals and our corporate social responsibility

Integrity

Accountability, character, honour and morals in all things

Professionalism

A high standard of behaviour and expertise consistently demonstrated in all work endeavours

Service Excellence

Devoted, enthusiastic and collaborative attitudes that are responsive to the needs of others

Telecommunications
Authority
of Trinidad and Tobago



Message from the Chairman



We are particularly proud that our 2019 to 2022 strategic plan enabled us to respond so swiftly and effectively to the unforeseen ICT demands of the COVID-19 pandemic. It was a clear indication that we were on the right path, having identified and closed gaps, and were doing what was needed to ensure the continuity of, and robust support for, our nation's ICT requirements. We were able to respond because we were ready!

Gilbert Peterson, S.C.
Chairman of the Board

“Rewarding” best describes the financial year 2022. We saw the successful completion of our strategic planning period from 2019 to 2022, with all of our strategic objectives reaching or nearing fruition by the end of that planning cycle.

We are particularly proud that our 2019 to 2022 strategic plan enabled us respond so swiftly and effectively to the unforeseen ICT demands of the COVID-19 pandemic. It was a clear indication that we were on the right path, having identified and closed gaps, and were doing what was needed to ensure the continuity of, and robust support for, our nation’s ICT requirements. We were able to respond because we were ready!

In setting the strategic direction for our last planning period, we remained aligned with the areas of action established by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and the National ICT Blueprint. Thus, we focused on the following four strategic themes, having predetermined what we believed would enable the ICT industry to thrive:

1. Stakeholder Relationship Management
2. Sustainability of Industry
3. Universal Service, Connectivity and Digital Inclusion
4. Organisation Effectiveness (People, Process, Systems and Facilities)

The COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated the critical need of our citizens for greater connectivity and seamless continuity, which translates as affordable access to services such as e-government, e-health, and e-education, facilitated by policies, frameworks and infrastructure development.

The Authority recognised that, as an ICT regulator, we are charged with ensuring citizens’ economic, social and digital well-being, and we developed a strategic plan that was responsive to those needs. We aimed for

fair, transparent and dynamic governance so that the industry would continue to be viable, sustainable and equitable to consumers and providers alike.

We remain committed to broadening connectivity to reach the country’s underserved areas and, during the financial year 2022, we focused heavily on the completion of a Digital Inclusion Survey that has assisted with the direction of our efforts and will now steer our universal service initiatives going forward. We aim to provide a platform where every citizen, even those in the remotest areas, can enjoy the benefits of a digitally rich life and smart living – utilising the benefits of information and communications technologies (ICTs) to live more efficiently by simplifying day-to-day tasks, and to be more innovative.

By curating specific universal service programmes, we seek to ensure that those at greatest risk of being left behind in this digital age – the disabled, seniors, children and persons in access gaps – are able to participate through universal access. This will only be achieved when 100% of the country’s population can access affordable basic telecommunications services on an individual or shared (public access) basis. Shared access includes publicly available Wi-Fi or community access centres, Internet kiosks, etc. Over time, the Authority aims to reduce the number of communities in the access gaps until 100% access is achieved.

To this end, in August of 2022, we launched a universal broadband project in St John’s Parish, Tobago, implemented under the Universal Service Fund. This will provide the communities of Parlatuvier, Bloody Bay and L’Anse Fourmi with much-needed connectivity. Such Internet service will be intrinsic to bringing industry to these remote areas and providing ease in conducting business.

In this regard, I am confident that the partnership that the Authority and Columbus Communications have forged with the Tobago House of Assembly, the Ministry of Digital Transformation and the communities of St. John's Parish in implementing this initiative will set the gold standard for the many universal service projects to come.

Propelled by our belief in digital inclusion and *"smart living for all"*, the Authority continued its National Wi-Fi Initiative (TTWiFi) in collaboration with the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago (GORTT). We have implemented public Wi-Fi access at 12 transportation hubs, including PTSC terminals and ferry terminals in Trinidad and Tobago, 23 national libraries, 16 health institutions, and 48 public primary schools.

We have also assisted 160 individuals, through our *"Persons with Disabilities"* initiative, with the provision of subsidised smartphones and, in collaboration with the Caribbean Telecommunications Union (CTU), we implemented Caribbean Video Assistance Service (CVAS). CVAS assists persons with sight and/or hearing impairment to move around their communities to conduct necessary business such as making doctor's appointments, grocery shopping, etc.

Beyond this, the Authority is also working on a special and vital project for our fisherfolk. The Smart Seas Toolkit for Disaster Resilience or *"Smart Seas"* project aims to increase resilience and ultimately save the lives of Caribbean small-scale fishers through ICTs, with emphasis on the creation of an enabling environment. It is initially being implemented in Trinidad and Tobago, which serves as the Maritime Rescue Co-ordination Centre (MRCC) for Barbados, Grenada and St. Vincent and the Grenadines. The Smart Seas project is a joint initiative of ITU, the CTU and the Authority, supported by GORTT.

Charting a New Course

Financial year 2023 will mark our 19th year of operation. We remain committed to doing our part in ensuring the advancement of a modern and viable telecommunications and broadcasting industry.

The Authority's goals in the early years centred around the liberalisation of the markets and the related interconnection agreements, spectrum management, licences and concessions, universal service obligations, management of numbering resources, consumer complaints resolutions and many other areas aligned to its statutory function. These regulatory efforts have resulted in a robust, dynamic and growing ICT sector.

Our achievements in protecting the public interest, promoting universal service, and ensuring a competitive telecommunications and broadcasting environment are evidence of adherence to our mandate.

Looking ahead, the critical role for the Authority will be to assist in building and maintaining the environment necessary for digital transformation to take root. To this end, the Authority will continue to foster a dynamic, collaborative and progressive ICT environment through efficient service delivery and the promotion of quality, affordable universal service and innovative, sustainable businesses in the digital economy, towards an empowered and connected society. Further, in the 2023 financial year, the Authority intends to re-commence its work on digital terrestrial television (DTT), which is the digitising of free-to-air television broadcasting, bringing high quality digital technology to Trinidad and Tobago.

We will also continue to work with GORTT towards the promulgation of the Broadcast Code.



As we embark on our new three-year strategic plan developed during this financial year, I look forward to our ongoing journey towards achieving our new vision, mission and strategic objectives.

Appreciation

Our accomplishments were not without the support of our stakeholders, whom I thank profusely for engaging with us on the digital transformation of Trinidad and Tobago.

I express my sincere gratitude to the Authority's Board for working with me throughout 2022, particularly during this strategic planning cycle fraught with the pandemic's challenges. We stood resilient and your unwavering focus and contribution were key to our successes this year.

On behalf of the Board, I would like to thank the Honourable Hassel Bacchus, Minister of Digital Transformation and his staff for their continued championing of the Authority's objectives and initiatives within the broader remit of the GORTT National ICT Plan 2018 – 2022.

I would also like to state my appreciation for the industry players and the public for the confidence shown in us during the past year, as we forge ahead into the new planning cycle with a renewed stakeholder-oriented focus, supported by our collaborative and consultative approaches.

My thanks to the Authority's staff. The achievements of this year would not have been possible were it not for you, who make every effort to achieve the Authority's vision.

In closing, on behalf of the Authority's Board and on my behalf, I reaffirm the Authority's commitment to advancing the evolution of a dynamic, collaborative and progressive ICT environment that underpins telecommunications and broadcasting in this era. We acknowledge that we have some way to go to ensure 100% universal and affordable access but are steadfast in our resolve to improve the quality of life for all our citizens and ensure their full participation in our digital economy.

Gilbert Peterson, S.C.
Chairman of the Board

Chief Executive Officer's Report



We have strengthened our policies and frameworks, whilst bolstering our partnerships and their role in accelerating connectivity for sustainable development and, in this way, enabling the best possible service offerings for building our country's ICT capacity.

**Mrs. Cynthia
Reddock-Downes**
Chief Executive Officer

The financial year 2021 – 2022 saw a relaxation of COVID-19 measures as workers returned to their offices, children went back to school, and people went about their daily lives with a new hybrid sense of normalcy – enjoying human interaction whilst holding on to elements of remote work and online meetings.

It is clear that the phenomenal rise of the Internet has connected people to new opportunities and life-enhancing services while driving economic growth and advancing progress. Yet, amidst that, some small pockets of persons throughout the country remain unconnected. Our Digital Inclusion Survey 2021 (DIS 2021), completed in May 2022, revealed that 24 communities throughout Trinidad and Tobago fell within the access gap. Additionally, the survey found, amongst other things, that 73% of individuals had only basic skills and 30% had standard ICT skills, with only 4% having the advanced skills needed to drive progress in this fourth industrial age.

The survey was completed in an environment where access to ICT continues to improve, and subscriptions to ICT services, including mobile subscriptions and fixed Internet subscriptions, are increasing. The data from DIS 2021 suggest that priority should be given to improving intermediate and advanced ICT skills among the population.

Recognising our mandate, the Authority has sought innovative ways to bridge the gap for those who are digitally excluded. We have strengthened our policies and frameworks, whilst bolstering our partnerships and their role in accelerating connectivity for sustainable development and, in this way, enabling the best possible service offerings for building our country's ICT capacity.

Our achievements in this past financial year were many. We were able to:

- meet our statutory obligations with respect to the publication of the Annual Report on our performance, including financial, as regulator, and the Annual Market Report that provides data on the performance of the domestic telecommunications and broadcasting markets in 2021.
- establish a memorandum of agreement (MOA) between the Authority and the Customs and Excise Division relating to the treatment of imported telecommunications equipment and the certification of telecommunications and broadcasting equipment.
- revise the MOA between the Authority and the Trinidad and Tobago Civil Aviation Authority (TTCAA) regarding the issuing of licences to persons operating radiocommunications equipment or using any radiocommunications service on board any aircraft or ground station in the territorial airspace of Trinidad and Tobago.
- continue to close access gaps through universal service funding by implementing broadband access infrastructure projects, commencing with the St. John's Parish in Tobago.
- build human capacity through key projects and areas of focus such as:
 - “*Tech for Girls*” master class, as part of the Girls in ICT Day activities in April 2022.
 - ICT and seniors – the importance of ICT use in keeping seniors healthy, connected and independent – for our commemoration of World Telecommunication and Information Society Day (WTISD).
 - “*Ensuring Digital Literacy for At-Risk Youth*” initiative.
 - The establishment of bursaries for

students pursuing ICT – related tertiary level courses.

- ▶ promoting improved standards in journalism by hosting our Broadcast Journalism Training programme and supporting the regional broadcasting industry's CBU Awards.
- ▶ Broadcasters Forum – a highly productive C-level examination of *"Self-Regulation in the Broadcasting Industry: Individual Choice or Industry Standard"*.
- ▶ the modernisation of frameworks and standards for the regulation of the telecommunications and broadcasting sectors.

We also worked with the industry to maintain stability as our telecommunications providers grappled with cable theft and our broadcasters with fake news – two significant threats to these sectors.

As a regulator, we have high public accountability. We, therefore, function with fair, transparent and dynamic governance, to ensure that the two sectors, which are critical to national socio-economic development, remain viable and sustainable and their services can be affordable to consumers and providers. This annual report gives a more in-depth look at our achievements, notably accomplished while controlling our expenditure.

Looking ahead into 2023, the Authority will be commencing our new strategic plan 2022 – 2025, predicated on strengthening our endeavours to fulfil our goals to build and secure a vibrant digital nation. The new direction will focus on four strategic themes: Universal Quality Connectivity; Sustainability of the Industry; Organisational Effectiveness; and Regional Harmonisation.

We will continue to forge alliances with key players in the sectors locally, regionally and

internationally, working collaboratively with industry partners in particular, to propel cutting-edge sector development. These will include, amongst others, the Caribbean Telecommunication Union, CANTO, the Trinidad & Tobago Publishers & Broadcasters Association, the Caribbean Broadcasting Union, the International Telecommunication Union, the Organization of American States, and the Inter-American Telecommunication Commission (CITEL).

We are looking forward to deepening our collaborations early in the next financial year, with the hosting of our first hybrid regional meeting since the pandemic, from 31st October to 4th November, when we will welcome participants from around the world to the Inter-American Telecommunication Commission (CITEL) 40th PCC.II meeting of the Radiocommunications Bureau (ITU-R) Region 2 countries (Americas and the Caribbean). The planning of this event was one of the Authority's major activities in this reporting period.

Appreciation

As I look optimistically towards the future, I recognise the support that has brought us successfully through the pandemic years, particularly with the uncertainty we navigated in moving from lockdowns to the reopening of the economy.

I take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks and appreciation to the Ministry of Digital Transformation for their policy guidance; to the Authority's Board for their wisdom and continued support; and to our employees who continued to demonstrate loyalty to the organisation and to partner with management to drive the evolution of our sectors in this age of rapid technological change and innovation. They play central



roles in helping the Authority identify and resolve important technical, policy and regulatory issues affecting the industry.

I thank, too, our stakeholders and industry partners who have worked with us through out the year on our various consultations and other initiatives. We reaffirm our commitment

to developing Trinidad and Tobago into a strong digital society and an enabler of digital transformation in the region.

Mrs. Cynthia Reddock-Downes
Chief Executive Officer



Board



**Dr. Kim
Mallalieu**

Deputy
Chairman

**Mr. Nikolaiski
Ali**

Board Member

**Mr. Gilbert
Peterson, S.C.**

Chairman

**Mr. Rhondall
Feeles**

Board Member



**Mr. Keyun
Boatswain**

Board
Member

**Mr. Devon
Seale**

Board
Member

**Mrs. Kalana
Prince-Wilson**

Board
Member

**Mr. Nigel
Cassimire**

Board
Member

**Mrs. Fatima
Aziz-Mohammed**

Board
Member

Management Team



**Mrs. Cynthia
Reddock-Downes**
Chief Executive Officer



Mr. Kirk Sookram
Deputy Chief
Executive Officer



Ms. Annie Baldeo
Executive Officer
Policy, Planning
and Economics



Ms. Sherry Mc Millan
Executive Officer
Corporate
Communications



Mr. Kurleigh Prescod
Executive Officer
Technology and
Engineering



Mr. Karel Douglas
Executive Officer
Legal and
Enforcement



Mr. Kevin Gaulteau
Executive Officer Finance
and Accounts

TATT in the Community



Girls in ICT Day 2022 - Tech4Girls Masterclass Workshop Winners



Back Row: From Left

Ms. Leona Charles, Communications Officer, TATT, **Mrs. Lianne Dieffenthaler**, Operations Specialist, CANTO, **Ms. Denyse White**, Deputy National Chief Digital Officer at the Ministry of Digital Transformation (MDT), **Ms. Debbie-Ann Jollie** Marketing Strategist and CEO of Hashspace Limited, **Mr. Raj Ramdass**, Director at Restore A Sense of I CAN (RSC) International Limited, **Ms. Neala Bhagwansingh**, 2nd Place Prize Winner, **Ms. Yolande Agard-Simmons**, Communications Manager, Cable and Wireless Communications/Flow Trinidad

Front Row: From Left

Ms. Sherry McMillan, Executive Officer, Corporate Communications, TATT, **Ms. Arlene Patrick**, Prize Winner (Accessibility Prize), **Ms. Princess Semper**, 1st Place Prize Winner, **Ms. Khailah Bernard**, 3rd Place Prize Winner, **Mrs. Sugan Ramdass**, Director at Restore A Sense of I CAN (RSC) International Limited, **Mrs. Cynthia Reddock Downes**, Chief Executive Officer, Telecommunications Authority of Trinidad and Tobago (TATT)



34th ICT Open Forum

'The Danger of Fake News and Disinformation'



Panelist at TATT's 34th ICT Open Forum titled *The Danger of Fake News and Disinformation* on set at CCN on Thursday, 9th June 2022. From left **Mr. Wendell Etienne**, moderator; **Ms. Kiran Maharaj**, Director, Trinidad and Tobago Publishers and Broadcasters and **Ms. Laura Dowrich-Phillips**, Regional Lifestyle and Culture Manager-Loop News. Joining the panel via videolink from Atlanta, USA, was **Mr. Jim Clancy** - former CNN international correspondent (not shown). The Forum highlighted the dangers of and how to detect fake news and disinformation.



Digital Technologies for Older Persons and Healthy Ageing'



Renowned Gerontologist **Dr. Jennifer Rouse** (right) chats with Moderator **Mr. Wendell Etienne** (left) at TATT's live discussion on 'Digital Technologies for Older Persons and Healthy Ageing' broadcast on CNC3 Television and streamed on social media on Tuesday, 17th May 2022 to commemorate WTISD 2022. (Not shown) Virtual panellists included: **Mr. Edson Eastmon** and **Mrs. Neala Maharaj-Racha** of iGovTT; **Ms. Brigid Winter** and **Ms. Cherylann Quamina-Baptiste** of NALIS; **Ms. Yvonne Knights** and **Ms. Janet Rawlins** of TTARP; and **Mrs. Marion Barzey-Tuitt**, **Mrs. Merle Baldeo** of ALTA

TATT in the Community (continued)

**TATT's Bursary Recipients Based on Academic Performance
During the 2021/2022 academic year**



University of Trinidad and Tobago Recipients

University of Trinidad and Tobago (UTT) bursary recipients **Jarod Gouveia, Josiah Marcano, Alpheaus Soogrim and Anna Beesanare** pose with Professor **Stephen Joseph**, Assistant Vice President, Office of Undergraduate Studies UTT (far left); **Dr. Kim Mallalieu**, TATT's Deputy Chairman (centre, foreground); Professor **Prakash Persad**, President UTT (on Dr. Mallalieu's right); and **Mrs. Cynthia Reddock-Downes**, TATT's CEO (far right).



The University of the West Indies Recipients

University of the West Indies (The UWI) recipients were **Shaniah Baldeo, Zion Holder, Celine Mohammed and Devon Durity** pose with senior university and TATT officials. The UWI's **Ms. Kristy Mannette-Smith**, Manager, Financial Advisory Services Department, Division of Student Services & Development (far left); **Dr. Kim Mallalieu**, TATT's Deputy Chairman (centre, foreground); **Mrs. Cynthia Reddock-Downes**, TATT's CEO (far right) and Professor **Indar Persad**, The UWI, Vice Principal on Mrs. Downes' left.



College of Science, Technology and Applied Arts of Trinidad and Tobago Recipients

College of Science, Technology and Applied Arts of Trinidad and Tobago (COSTAATT) bursary recipients **Ravina Kanhai, Salisha Edan, Justin Homer and Roger Loregnard** pose with senior university personnel and TATT officials. Third from left are **Dr. Kim Mallalieu**, TATT's Deputy Chairman; **Dr. Naseem Koylass**, Vice President Academic Affairs, COSTAATT, on Dr. Mallalieu's right and **Mrs. Cynthia Reddock-Downes**, TATT's CEO (far right).



**Review of Key
Accomplishments
and Ongoing
Activities**



In April 2020, a strategic plan for the period 2019–2022 was approved by the Authority's Board. The plan identified four strategic themes as follows:

- Stakeholder Relationship Management
- Sustainability of Industry
- Universal Service, Connectivity and Digital Inclusion
- Organisational Effectiveness (People, Process, Systems, Facilities)

An operational plan for the three-year strategic planning period was developed and key deliverables for each year were laid down. Annually, the key deliverables (for the year under review) are monitored and managed through a quarterly corporate performance management system, to ensure that the goals of the plan are being realised.

Some of the key deliverables for the financial year 2021 – 2022, under each strategic theme and specific objective(s), are reported on below.

Strategic Theme 1: Stakeholder Relationship Management

Strategic Objective: Strengthen Organisational Brand Image

Branding the Telecommunications Authority of Trinidad and Tobago

The Authority's vision and desired positioning is that of a leading information and communications technology (ICT) regulator, enabling an empowered and connected society. Its aim is to be seen as a significant player, not just in the development of the ICT ecosystem of Trinidad and Tobago, but as a leading and catalysing force for the harmonisation of a regional regulatory framework for the telecommunications and

broadcasting sectors, towards the creation of a sustainable and empowered CARICOM single ICT space.

This initiative entailed the implementation of a social media branding campaign to highlight the mission of the Authority and build greater public awareness and understanding of its work in advancing the digital economy.

During the 2021/22 financial year, the social media strategy was implemented and deployed utilising the Authority's website and social media platforms.

Some notable achievements included the production of over 15 poster ads and five 30-second video ads produced under the banner "Strive: Endless Possibilities". This effort resulted in increases in social media followers on Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, Twitter and YouTube.

Strategic Theme 2: Sustainability of Industry

Strategic Objective: Control Existing Recurrent Expenditure

Annual Budget 2022/23 and Revised Estimates

This deliverable, which is a statutory requirement of the Telecommunications Act, Chap. 47:31 (the Act), is key to the successful and efficient operation of the Authority. The completion of this exercise within the required timeframe ensured that projects and activities were appropriately funded and in an open and transparent manner.

The budget was formulated to reflect revenue projections, the areas of project spending, fixed overheads, and related expenses of the Authority for 2023. This activity was completed within the stipulated timelines.

Financial Statements - 2020/21

This deliverable sought to ensure that the Authority's financial statements were prepared and approved in an efficient and timely manner, in keeping with the guidelines and deadlines established in the Act. Furthermore, it is the responsibility of receivers of public funds to ensure the preparation of financial statements. The statements therefore reflect the Authority's financial performance and its activities for the financial year 2020/21. This activity was completed within the stated timelines.

Annual Report - 2020/21

The preparation of the Authority's annual report for submission to Parliament involved the collection and collation of information on its deliverables for each financial year. This included compiling data and other statistics from all divisions and preparing the financial statements to be approved by the Authority's Audit Committee and, subsequently, the Board. This project was completed within the required deadlines.

Strategic Objective: Improve Stakeholder Understanding of the Sectors' Contribution to National Development

Publication of the Annual Market Report for 2021

The Telecommunications and Broadcasting Sectors Annual Market Report (AMR) presents yearly information on the domestic markets within these two sectors. This includes data on the subscriptions, gross revenues and traffic of the relevant markets. The data collected is used by the Authority to determine the market share of the relevant service operators and to monitor and inform policy decisions that will facilitate the orderly

development of the sectors and guide investment.

This data is sourced primarily from the results of a survey of the concessionaires. Data is also collected quarterly. AMR 2021 covered the period 1st January to 31st December 2021 and is published on the Authority's website.

Facilitation of ICT-Related Programmes

Tech4Girls: Masterclass on How to Build Your Online Personal Brand

This activity was hosted by the Authority, in partnership with the Ministry of Digital Transformation, Tobago Information Technology Limited and CANTO, with the aim of encouraging young women ages 18 and older to consider careers in ICT. During the workshop, participants were taught:

1. Fundamentals of personal branding
2. How to incorporate passion into your career
3. Tips on networking to develop and build relationships
4. Dos and don'ts when developing your personal brand online

The event, which was supported by bmobile and FLOW, was attended by 158 young women.

World Telecommunications and Information Society Day (WTISD) 2022

Each year, the Authority stands with the global ICT industry in observing WTISD on 17th May. WTISD has been celebrated annually since 1969 to mark the founding of International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and the signing of the first International Telegraph Convention in 1865.

The theme for 2022 was *"Digital Technologies for Older Persons and Healthy Ageing"*. The Authority engaged relevant local stakeholders to raise awareness about the

important role of telecommunications and ICTs in supporting seniors to stay healthy, connected and independent. The Authority produced a series of videos in collaboration with the National Library and Information System Authority (NALIS), iGovTT, Trinidad and Tobago Association of Responsible Persons (TTARP) and Adult Literacy Tutors Association (ALTA). These videos were aired during a live discussion programme on national television featuring Dr. Jennifer Rouse, Gerontologist. The programme is currently on YouTube and is used by NALIS in their seminars for senior citizens.

ICT Open Forum

The ICT Forum is a platform for engaging telecommunications and broadcasting stakeholders in discussions on contemporary issues impacting consumers and the growth of the industry. The theme of the 2022 forum, held in June, was *"The Danger of Fake News and Misinformation"*.

The event was a live panel discussion and call-in segment on CCN TV6, featuring Mr. Jim Clancy, former CNN international correspondent (via videoconferencing); Ms. Kiran Maharaj, Director, Trinidad & Tobago Publishers & Broadcasters Association (TTPBA); and Ms. Laura Dowrich-Phillips, Regional Lifestyle and Culture Manager, Loop News. Mr. Wendell Etienne was the host.

Broadcasters Forum

One of the Authority's key areas of focus in the past few years has been to encourage broadcasters to become self-regulated. The impetus for this initiative came out of the 2020 Broadcasters Forum, which featured a roundtable industry discussion on self-regulation and the Broadcasting Code. The 2022 Broadcasters Forum built on that initial

discussion, with the theme *"Self-Regulation in the Broadcasting Industry - Individual Choice or Industry Standard"*.

This virtual event was hosted by the Authority on 28th September, and participants included representatives of broadcasting concessionaires. Presentations were delivered by the Authority, the TTPBA, and the Media Complaints Committee.

Facilitation of ICT Training Initiatives

Ensuring Digital Literacy in At-Risk Youth

This initiative involved identifying and collaborating with suitable organisations and institutions that work with at-risk youth, to conduct ICT skills-training sessions for young persons in communities across Trinidad and Tobago.

Equipping these young persons with ICT skills could assist them in becoming employable and help bridge the country's digital divide, which is necessary for digital transformation. The agencies identified to deliver the training are accredited and are therefore able to offer recognised certification.

Broadcast Engineers Apprenticeship Programme

In discussions with broadcasters in 2020, the Authority learned of a shortage of skilled engineers to service the local broadcasting sector. Broadcasters currently rely on a few long-standing, experienced engineers for services that are central to their operations. It was agreed that a programme to train new engineers for the industry would be of great benefit. In 2022, the Authority, in collaboration with some broadcasting entities, developed a draft agreement for an apprenticeship programme for the consideration and final approval of the country's wider broadcasting community.

Establishment of Bursaries for Students Pursuing ICT-Related Undergraduate Studies

During the 2021/22 financial year, the Authority established bursaries to support students pursuing ICT-related undergraduate studies at the three state-owned tertiary level institutions.

On 1st July 2022, the Authority's 18th anniversary, a ceremony was held at which agreements were signed by the Authority and representatives from the University of the West Indies (UWI), the University of Trinidad and Tobago (UTT), and the College of Science, Technology and Applied Arts of Trinidad and Tobago (COSTAATT). On 23rd September 2022, twelve students received the first tranche of their bursaries.

Strategic Objective: Facilitate ICT Innovation, Legislative Development and Research and Development

Finalisation of the Framework for the Monitoring, Compliance and Enforcement of Intellectual Property Rights in the Broadcasting Sector

The Authority is developing a framework to address matters of compliance regarding intellectual property rights (IPR), with the aim of ensuring that these rights are respected, and that there is continued compliance by broadcasters. This IPR framework embodies the Authority's prescriptions for the effective monitoring, compliance and enforcement of IPR in the broadcasting sector. In this financial year, the Authority began drafting the framework which will be issued for the first round of consultation in the next financial year.

Revision of the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the Authority and the Trinidad and Tobago Civil Aviation Authority (TTCAA)

In December 2017, the Authority and TTCAA entered into an MOA outlining and harmonising their respective roles and functions regarding the issuing of licences to persons operating radiocommunications equipment or using any radiocommunications service on board any aircraft or ground station in the territorial airspace of Trinidad and Tobago. In the 2021/22 financial year, the parties began operationalising certain elements of the MOA and reviewing same, with a view to recommending revisions and improvements so that the agreement accurately reflects the current mutual arrangements and understandings of both parties.

The parties involved have agreed to certain revisions, such as the inclusion of new sections on the provision of data on obstacles relating to tower location, for specified geographical areas; the inclusion of requirements for TTCAA's input prior to the Authority issuing its tower approval; and the incorporation of changes in the treatment of unmanned aerial vehicles by TTCAA and the Authority.

Development and Execution of a Memorandum of Agreement between the Authority and the Customs and Excise Division (CED)

The Authority and the CED have recognised the importance of developing a mechanism for the harmonisation of their respective roles and functions regarding the treatment of exemption duties as they relate to imported telecommunications equipment, as well as matters concerning the attestation and certification of telecommunications and broadcasting equipment.

During the 2021/22 financial year, the Authority and the CED started developing an MOA to facilitate a more efficient process for the importation and certification of telecommunications and broadcasting equipment. The MOA is intended to treat with matters concerning the development and maintenance of a list of approved devices and associated equipment certification, along with the development of training materials for relevant CED officers on the Authority's equipment certification process.

Framework on Internet Radio Broadcasting Services in Trinidad and Tobago

A framework on Internet radio broadcasting was drafted during the 2020/21 financial year to address issues relating to the rise of radio broadcasting utilising the Internet platform as both a content provider and a content distributor. The framework also explored the level of authorisation needed for the provision of this service in Trinidad and Tobago and proposed the relevant policy approach which will be taken by the Authority.

In the 2021/22 financial year, the document was published for one round of public consultation, and will be submitted for a second, final round in the new financial year.

Strategic Objective: Improve Fair Competition

Frameworks on Net Neutrality and Over-the-Top Services

In June 2015, the Authority published a consultative document, *Towards the Treatment of Over-the-Top (OTT) Services*. In reviewing the comments received, it was evident that the treatment of OTT services could be addressed within the larger context of net neutrality. In July 2018, the document

was revised as a *Discussion Paper on Net Neutrality and OTT Services in Trinidad and Tobago* and published for consultation. This version examined both sides of the net neutrality debate within the local context and proposed guiding principles and recommendations for net neutrality. The paper also considered to what extent net neutrality regulation is desirable in an era of evolving technological applications and services.

During the 2021/22 financial year, *the Framework on Net Neutrality in Trinidad and Tobago* was drafted as a standalone policy document and issued for one round of consultation. In the same vein, *the Framework on Over-the-Top Services (OTTs) in Trinidad and Tobago* was also drafted and issued for one round of consultation.

Strategic Objective: Reform Spectrum Management

Modernisation of the Authority's Spectrum Management Framework

The radio frequency (RF) spectrum is a scarce national resource that is essential to the provision of a wide range of services, including, inter alia, voice, data, multimedia telecommunications services, broadcasting and other services such as national security, public safety, disaster warning, weather forecasting, aeronautical and marine communications. A modern and systematic approach to the management of the RF spectrum is, therefore, imperative, to ensure that the unique social and economic benefits that it provides are fully realised.

Over the past few years, developments in telecommunications technologies and the emergence of new telecommunications services have generated even greater demand for the use of the RF spectrum. The careful management of the spectrum

involves consideration of both the technical and economic efficiencies of the spectrum use within the context of a broad telecommunications policy. At the end of 2021/22, both rounds of consultation on *the Spectrum Management Framework* were completed in anticipation of publication.

Spectrum Audits to Verify Authorised Use of Spectrum

The Authority has a mandate to manage the national spectrum resource. An integral activity in the performance of these duties is conducting spectrum audits on various frequency bands. These spectrum audits assist the Authority in ensuring that the radio frequency spectrum is effectively and efficiently utilised and authorised accordingly. The Authority, through its strategic planning, may conduct spectrum audits for frequencies used by different radiocommunications systems.

Two spectrum audits were conducted for the financial period 2021/22 – an audit of point-to-point radiocommunications systems and an audit of very small aperture terminal (VSAT) telecommunications/earth station/commercial TVRO radiocommunications systems.

Framework for Fifth Generation (5G) Public Mobile Telecommunications Networks

Fifth Generation (5G) is the subject of international standardisation activities led by ITU and the 3rd Generation Partnership Project (3GPP). ITU, which designates 5G as International Mobile Telecommunication 2020 (IMT-2020), laid out a vision for it in 2015 and has been developing and refining requirements.

IMT-2020, or 5G, is an opportunity for policymakers to empower citizens and

businesses. It will play a key role in supporting governments and policymakers in transforming cities into smart cities, thereby allowing citizens and communities to realise and participate in the socio-economic benefits delivered by an advanced, data-intensive, digital economy. The expansion of the world of the Internet of Things (IoT) will hinge on the rollout of 5G, which will, in turn, lay the foundation for smart homes, smart buildings, smart cities, precision agriculture, and more. The technology will also enable new applications, such as self-driving cars, factory automation, and remote surgery, which require ultra-high reliability and low latency.

To reap the benefits of 5G and the networks of the future, regulators must have a forward-looking strategic policy to make spectrum use more efficient and make more spectrum available.

In the 2021/22 financial year, the Authority completed the draft *Framework for Fifth Generation (5G) Public Mobile Telecommunications Networks*, which was issued for one round of consultation with stakeholders.

Framework for the Authorisation of Maritime Mobile Services

Maritime mobile service is a mobile service between coast stations and ship stations. It is also between ship stations, or between associated on-board communication stations. Survival craft stations and emergency position-indicating radio beacon stations may also use this service.

ITU has allocated radio spectrum in various frequency bands to maritime mobile service on a primary basis. These frequencies are shared by all stations operating in the service.

The framework for maritime service was first drafted in 2009. It contained guidelines for the

licensing of radiocommunications stations and radio operators of maritime mobile services, under the Telecommunications Act 2001, as amended in 2004.

Since 2009, there have been new developments in the authorisation of maritime mobile service such as the licensing of digital selective calling (DSC)-equipped VHF handheld radios and the licensing of small-scale vessels. Consequently, the Authority revised the framework in order to codify the approaches it will take to address emerging licensing requirements.

During the 2021/22 financial year, *the Framework for the Authorisation of Maritime Mobile Services* was revised, and a pre-consultation discussion was held with stakeholders.

Strategic Theme 3: Universal Service, Connectivity and Digital Inclusion

Strategic Objective: Close Access Gap through Universal Service Initiatives

Digital Inclusion Survey 2021

Over the last decade, there has been considerable growth with respect to consumer access to, and use of, telecommunications and broadcasting services in Trinidad and Tobago. However, this growth has been uneven and has contributed to the existing digital divide between some population groups and geographic areas in the country. The Authority conducted two digital divide surveys – one in 2007 and another in 2013 the results of which have been widely used by a variety of stakeholders.

Given the time that elapsed since the last digital divide survey, in 2013, the Authority determined that it was necessary to conduct

another such exercise for a more up-to-date assessment and approach. It shifted from strictly measuring the digital “divide”, as had been the case in the previous surveys, to also assessing the conditions for digital “inclusion”, as an international best practice using additional indicators, such as a digital inclusion index, or DII, which was developed by TATT for the purposes of the 2021 survey.

During the 2021/22 financial year, the Authority signed a memorandum of understanding with the Central Statistical Office (CSO) for technical assistance and awarded a contract to a consultancy firm to design and implement the digital inclusion survey. Subsequently, the survey instrument was finalised, and fieldwork activity commenced in April 2021. By the end of the financial year, all fieldwork activity, the collation and analysis of the survey data, the drafting and review of the report, and the publication of the final report by the Authority was completed.

Strategic Objective: Enhance Network Resilience (Wireless Networks)

Establishment of Standards to Promote Robustness of National Telecommunications Infrastructure: Technical Standards for Wireless Networks

This project entailed the establishment of technical standards to promote resilience and redundancy for public wireless telecommunications networks and the infrastructure that supports those networks. In an era where communication is integral to our lifestyle, and where environmental and man-made disasters are increasing, the robustness of the national telecommunications infrastructure is critical. It is important for the Authority to not only

ensure that public telecommunications networks operate with a desirable quality of service but that they remain available in the face of disasters.

Whilst there may be a limit to the ability of a network to operate under disaster conditions, the establishment of minimum or reasonable standards would ensure some level of resilience. In the 2021/22 financial year, the standards were published for the second round of consultation.

Strategic Theme 4: Organisational Effectiveness (People, Process, Systems and Facilities)

Strategic Objective: Improve Organisational Efficiency and Effectiveness through Business Process Improvement (Policy, Process and Procedures)

Equipment Standardisation and Certification Framework for the Telecommunications and Broadcasting Sectors of Trinidad and Tobago

The Equipment Standardisation and Certification Framework was completed and published by the Authority in 2008.

Since then, there have been significant advancements in technology standards, technology and devices. The use of telecommunications technology in totally unrelated devices, such as medical equipment, unmanned aerial vehicles, automobiles, and customer premise devices, has now become the norm in today's information-based, digital society.

In 2022, the Authority revised the framework to encompass the changes in technology over the last 13 years, including changes in the procedures and artifacts currently used to

process equipment certification applications from local and foreign users and agencies. The framework will be issued for the first round of public consultation in the coming financial year.

The Strategic Plan for the Authority, 2022 - 2025

Strategic planning provides direction for achieving the short and long-term goals of an organisation. It is used to evaluate performance; analyse the organisation's existing capabilities in its operating environment; leverage strengths; identify long-term threats and opportunities; and assign resources to ensure the strategic goals can be met.

During the 2021/22 financial year, the Authority reviewed its functions in relation to its statutory obligations and regulatory oversight in order to develop the new strategic plan. Relevant external stakeholders, as well as staff and members of the Board of the Authority, were also consulted in drawing up the new plan to be implemented in the 2022/23 financial year.

Strategic Objective: Improve Operational Efficiency through a More Effective Application of ICT

Upgrading of the Disaster Recovery Site

The disaster recovery (DR) site represents a redundant location to the Authority's head office. The DR site is responsible for housing live replicated copies of the critical data from head office. The DR site needed upgrading, as the infrastructure at the location had reached the end of its useful life. Infrastructure works on the DR site upgrade were completed in this financial year.



Over the next financial year, the Authority will focus on the four strategic themes in its new strategic plan, namely, Universal Quality Connectivity; Sustainability of the Industry; Organisational Effectiveness; and Regional

Harmonisation. Through the implementation of the deliverables under each of these themes, some of which are listed below, the Authority is confident its goals will be realised.

Universal Quality Connectivity

Increase Broadband Coverage

- Development of a 5G framework
- Implementation of the broadband access infrastructure universal service project – St. John's Parish, Tobago

Increase Quality Through Competition, Monitoring, Standards, Awareness and Enforcement

- Development of an authorisation framework for maritime mobile services
- Completion of the replacement and upgrade of the broadcast monitoring system server
- Collection and assessment of broadband data from broadband speeds survey
- Development of consumer awareness programmes on consumer rights and obligations (community and school outreach)

Increase Skills and Awareness

- Implementation of external training initiatives (Girls in ICT, Boys in ICT and broadcast journalism training)
- Implementation of the Digital Literacy in At-Risk Youth initiative
- Implementation of the broadcast engineers apprenticeship programme

Strengthen Public Awareness and Branding

- Development of the "This is What We Do" social media marketing campaign

Sustainability of the Industry

Strengthen Compliance and Enforcement Mechanisms

- Amendments to the Act and drafting of subsidiary regulations

Promote Investment in the Industry

- Publication of the 17th Annual Market Report: Telecommunications and Broadcasting Sectors 2022

Enhance Capacity to Accelerate Digital Transformation and Sustainable Economic and Social Development by Leveraging and Using New and Emerging Telecommunications/ICTs and Services

- Development of a framework on equipment standardisation and certification
- Development of a framework on net neutrality
- Development of a framework on Internet radio
- Development of a framework on over-the-top services

Organisational Effectiveness

Promote Organisational Innovation (Digital Systems and Processes)

- Implementation of new and revised information technology (IT) policies and procedures
- Implementation of a call centre solution for the Authority's 800 line and upgrading of the private automatic branch exchange

Business Operations Compliance and Optimisation

- Implementation of a business continuity management system to mitigate business downtime, IT, facilities and staff operations

Regional Harmonisation

Increase Research Focus on Regionally Relevant ICT Issues

- Hosting of the Inter-American Telecommunication Commission (CITEL) 40th PCC.II meeting of the Radiocommunications Bureau (ITU-R) Region 2 countries (Americas and the Caribbean)



**Overview of the
Telecommunications
and Broadcasting
Sectors**



Trends in Market Revenues for January to December 2021

According to the data presented in the Authority's 16th Annual Market Report: Telecommunications and Broadcasting Sectors 2021 (Annual Market Report 2021)¹ published in September 2022, the telecommunications and broadcasting sectors generated gross revenues of TT\$5.04 billion², or US\$743 million³, in 2021 which, as a proportion of gross domestic product (GDP)⁴, equals 3.3%. This represents a 6.5% increase in total revenues generated by these sectors when compared to 2020.

The telecommunications sector contributed TT\$3.81 billion (75.6%) of total industry revenues, while the broadcasting sector generated TT\$1.23 billion (24.4%). The Internet market accounted for the largest proportion of revenues, earning TT\$2,157.5

million (42.8%) of total industry revenues. This was followed by the mobile voice market which accrued TT\$958.2 million (19.0%) of total revenues. The next highest earners were pay TV and other revenue sources⁵, which generated TT\$643.1 million (12.8%) and TT\$518.2 million (10.3%), respectively. The fixed voice market⁶ was next, with TT\$348.9 million (6.9%), followed by the international market which accounted for TT\$134.9 million (2.7%). Revenues from leased lines⁷ amounted to TT\$112.9 – a 2.2% share of total industry revenues. The FTA radio market and FTA TV market contributed TT\$99.6 million (2.0%) and TT\$63.0 million (1.3%), respectively.

Figure 1 gives a breakdown of revenue contributions by each market towards total industry revenues.

1 The Annual Market Report 2021 is available at: <https://tatt.org.tt>
2 This figure includes revenues from telecommunications and broadcasting services offered to members of the general public and private leased line services.
3 Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago exchange rate: US\$1 = TT\$6.79
4 Forecasted GDP at current prices for 2021: TT\$150,957.3 million (Source: Ministry of Finance, Review of the Economy 2021)

5 Other revenues consisted of additional incomes from both the telecommunications and broadcasting sectors, such as those received from wholesale services, and production and airtime for local programming on pay TV.
6 Fixed voice market revenues include those earned from fixed voice services, excluding international services.
7 Leased lines include both international and domestic circuits.



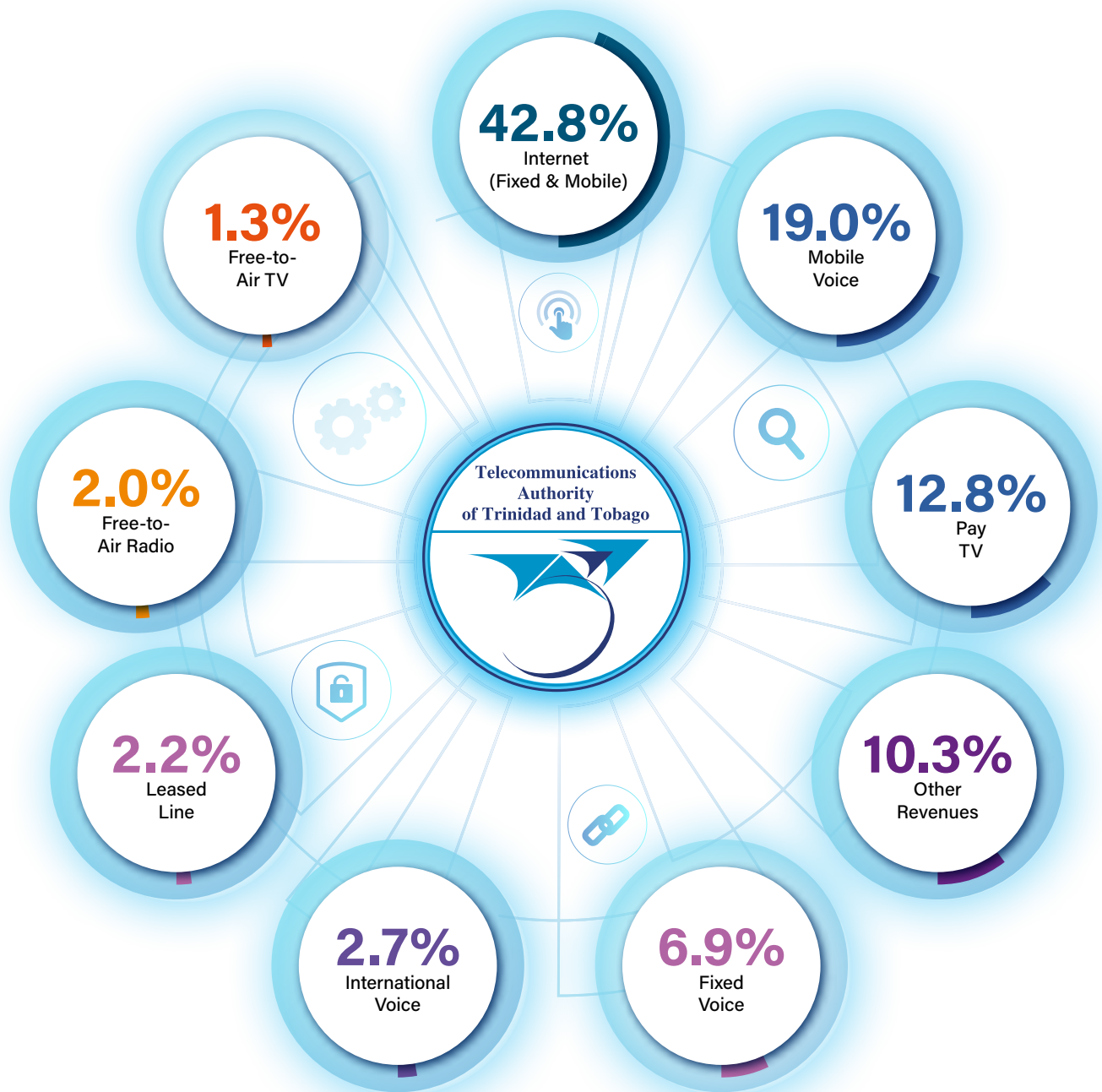


FIGURE 1.
Proportion of Total Industry Revenues Contributed by Each Market in 2021

Market	Proportion
Internet (Fixed and Mobile)	42.8%
Mobile Voice	19.0%
Pay TV	12.8%
Other Revenues	10.3%
Fixed Voice	6.9%
International Voice	2.7%
Leased Line	2.2%
Free-to-Air Radio	2.0%
Free-to-Air TV	1.3%

Domestic Telecommunications and Broadcasting Statistics

The statistics for the telecommunications and broadcasting markets over the period 2013 to 2021, sourced from the Annual Market Report 2021, are shown in Table 1.

These data – on subscriptions, average revenue per user (ARPU) and traffic from the

relevant markets – are used by the Authority to monitor and inform policy decisions which facilitate the orderly development of the markets within the two sectors.

TABLE 1.

Domestic Telecommunications and Broadcasting Statistics for the Period 2013 to 2021

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
General									
Population (millions)	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4
Telecommunications and broadcasting revenues (US\$ million)	864.4	881.5	876.7	836.0	771.8 ⁸	832.1	740.7	697.1	743.0
Total telephone subscriptions ('000s)	2,235.2	2,270.4	2,393.2	2,471.6	2,349.3	2,290.3	2,496.0	2,311.9	2,338.3
Total telephone penetration	168.3	171.4	180.7	186.6	177.3	172.9	183.0	169.2	171.0
Fixed Voice									
Fixed voice subscriptions ('000s)	291.3	289.8	269.8	305.7	318.7	317.7	332.3	323.9	341.4
Fixed voice penetration	21.9	21.9	20.0	22.6	23.5	23.4	24.4	23.7	25.0
Fixed voice household penetration	56.2	56.6	52.5	62.1	66.3	66.7	71.0	69.7	72.3
Average revenue per user (ARPU) US\$	413.1	410.7	424.2	402.4	359.0	272.4	235.6	214.1	149.1
Fixed voice subscription growth (%)	1.6	-0.7	-6.3	13.3	4.2	-0.3	4.6	-2.5	5.4
Mobile									
Mobile subscriptions ('000s)	1,943.9	1,980.6	2,123.4	2,165.8	2,031.6	1,972.6	2,163.7	1,988.0	1,996.8
Mobile penetration	146.4	149.1	157.3	160.0	150.0	145.1	158.6	145.5	146.0
Average revenue per user (ARPU) US\$	189.0	174.5	147.1	136.8	113.0	89.0	70.7	65.1	70.7
Mobile subscription growth (%)	3.2	1.9	7.2	2.0	-6.2	-2.9	9.7	-7.9	0.5

⁸ Telecommunications revenues for 2017 were revised from the US\$758.1 Previously reported to US\$771.8

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	
Internet	Total Internet subscriptions ⁹ ('000s)	682.3	820.1	925.2	1,001.7	1,031.6	1,017.9	992.7	1,147.0	1,190.7
	Fixed Internet subscriptions ¹⁰ ('000s)	231.7	249.6	279.8	294.4	327.0	341.3	339.4	376.8	370.9
	Mobile Internet subscriptions ¹¹ ('000s)	450.6	570.5	645.4	707.3	704.6	678.6	653.3	770.2	819.8
	Fixed broadband subscriptions ¹² ('000s)	229.6	248.1	278.5	294.3	326.8	341.1	339.3	376.8	370.9
	Fixed Internet users ¹³ ('000s)	751.0	757.8	851.1	900.7	1,001.4	1,051.4	1,059.1	1,174.2	1,165
	Fixed Internet penetration	17.4	18.8	21.1	21.7	24.2	25.1	24.9	27.6	27.1
	Mobile Internet penetration	33.9	43.0	47.8	52.2	52.0	49.9	47.9	56.3	59.9
	Fixed Internet users penetration	53.0	57.1	63.1	57.2	74.0	77.4	77.6	85.9	85.2
	Fixed Internet household penetration	54.2	58.3	65.4	69.3	76.9	80.8	79.9	88.6	88.0
	Average revenue per user (ARPU) US\$ for fixed Internet	440.0	448.6	430.3	470.5	417.9	492.7	510.8	475.0	487.5
Fixed Internet subscription growth (%)	6.0	7.8	12.1	5.2	11.1	4.4	-0.5	11.0	-2.0	
International Voice Traffic	International -outgoing (min. million)	277.9	268.3	247.2	170.9	125.2	125.9	79.7	58.5	50.0
	International -incoming (min. million)	234.8	234.1	199.2	202.7	192.9	127.1	91.9	95.5	74.6
	Inbound/outbound int'l traffic ratio	0.8	0.9	0.8	1.2	1.5	0.99	1.2	1.6	1.6
Pay TV	Pay TV subscriptions ('000s)	209.3	228.8	232.8	248.4	246.7	234.7	249.8	242.4	237.8
	Pay TV penetration	15.8	17.2	17.2	18.3	18.2	17.3	18.3	17.7	17.4
	Pay TV household penetration	52.1	57.0	58.0	61.9	61.5	58.5	62.2	60.4	59.2
	Average revenue per user (ARPU) US\$	520.8	493.2	497.7	486.8	425.2	427.5	435.4	418.9	397.3
	Pay TV subscription growth (%)	5.3	9.3	1.7	6.7	-0.6	-4.9	6.4	-3.0	-1.9

9 Total Internet subscriptions are the sum of fixed Internet subscriptions and mobile postpaid Internet subscriptions.

10 Fixed Internet subscriptions are the total number of subscriptions with fixed wired or fixed wireless Internet access.

11 Mobile Internet subscriptions from 2013 to 2021 include prepaid and postpaid mobile Internet users.

12 Fixed broadband subscriptions are the number of Internet subscribers with access to download speeds of 256 kbps or higher.

13 Fixed Internet users are the number of persons who regularly use fixed Internet services.

Trends in Subscription Penetration as at December 2021

The subscription penetration rate is defined as the number of subscriptions per 100 of the population. Figure 2 shows the penetration rates for all subscription-based markets from 2017 to 2021.

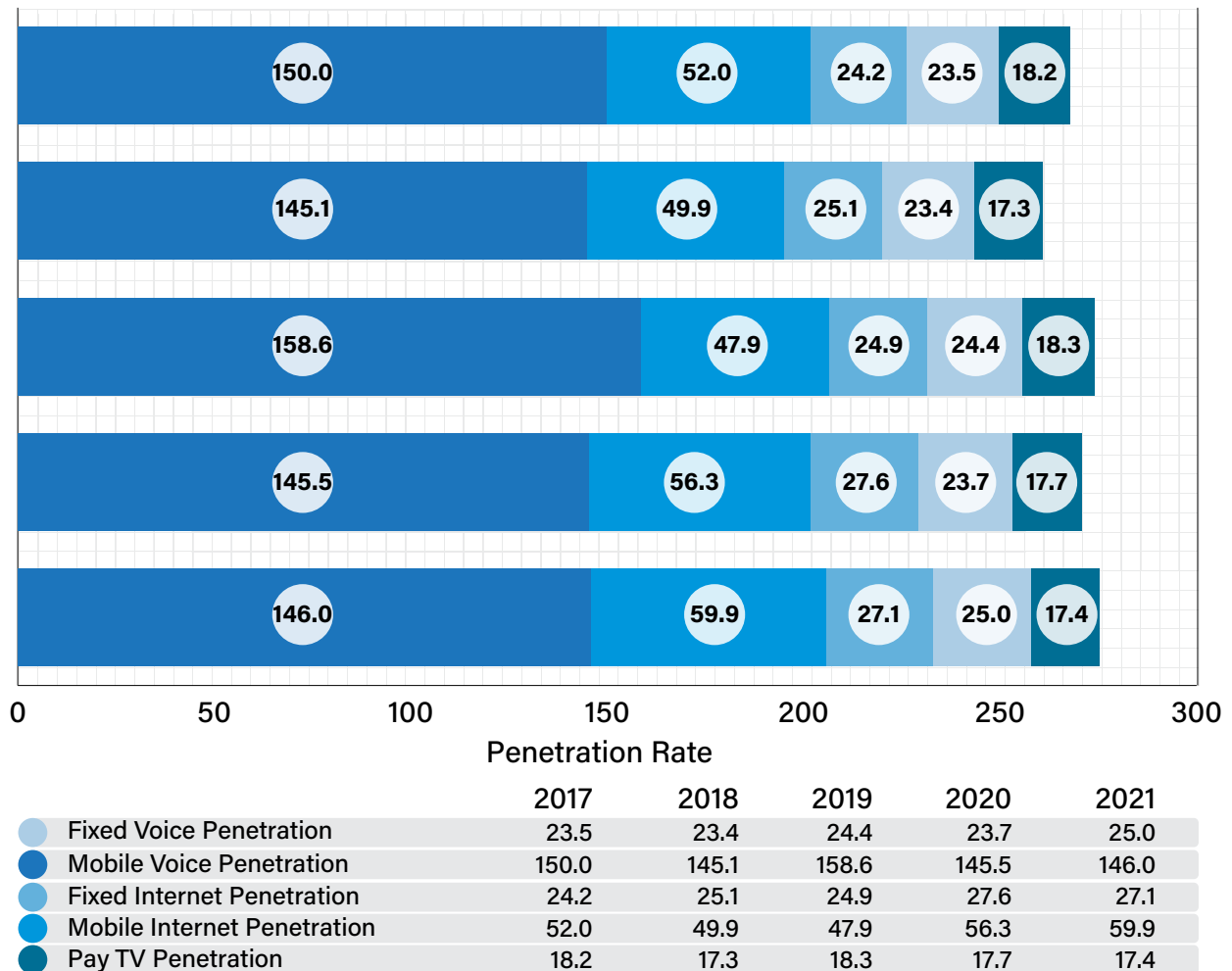


FIGURE 2.
Penetration Rate of Subscription-Based Markets from 2017 to 2021

In 2021, only the mobile voice, mobile Internet and fixed voice markets recorded growth in penetration rates.

The penetration rate for the mobile voice market rose from 145.5 in 2020 to 146.0 in 2021, while the mobile Internet market grew from 56.3 in 2020 to 59.9. The fixed voice penetration rate for 2021 was 25 – an increase of 1.3 points from the previous year.

The penetration rates for fixed Internet and pay TV fell in 2021, to values of 27.0 and 17.4, respectively.

Broadcasting and Telecommunications Concessions as at September 2022

Tables 2 and 3 list the number of broadcasting and telecommunications concessions, respectively, that were authorised and operating within these markets as at 30th September 2022.

TABLE 2.

Broadcasting Market Concessions for the Period September 2019 to September 2022

Types of Broadcasting Concessions	September 2019	September 2020	September 2021	September 2022
Free-to-Air Television	5	5	5	5
National	4	4	4	4
Major Territorial	1	1	1	1
Subscription (Pay) Television	13	13	13	12
National	7	7	8	8
Major Territorial	1	1	1	1
Niche	4	4	3	2
Minor Territorial	1	1	1	1
TV Broadcasting via Cable	14	14	15	14
National	14	14	15	14
Major Territorial	-	-	-	-
Free-to-Air Radio	37	37	36	36
National	30	30	29	28
Major Territorial	5	5	5	5
Minor Territorial/Niche	2	2	2	3
Total	69	69	69	67

TABLE 3.

Telecommunications Market Concessions as at 30th September 2022

Types of Telecommunications Concessions	Authorised Providers September 2022	Operational Providers September 2022
Fixed Telecommunications	16	
Fixed Telephony		6
Fixed Internet		11
International Telecommunications	9	8
Mobile Telecommunications	2	2

A single concession is granted for the provision of fixed telephony and/or fixed Internet services and networks. During the period under review, of the 16 operators authorised to provide fixed domestic telecommunications services, only six

concessionaires opted to provide fixed telephony services and 11 concessionaires opted to provide fixed Internet services. Of the nine authorised providers of public international telecommunications services, eight opted to provide such services.



The statistics in the following sections give details of the work of the Authority in each of the following categories for the financial year under review.

Consumer Complaints Handling

During the reporting period, a total of 966 valid consumer complaints were received – an increase of approximately 35.5% over the

previous year. Of this total, 804 complaints (83.2%) were resolved. There are 162 complaints still being investigated, most of which were submitted during the last quarter of the financial year, and these are expected to be resolved early in the next financial year. The largest proportion of complaints received – approximately 35.3% – related to loss of service issues. Figure 3 depicts the complaints by type and status.

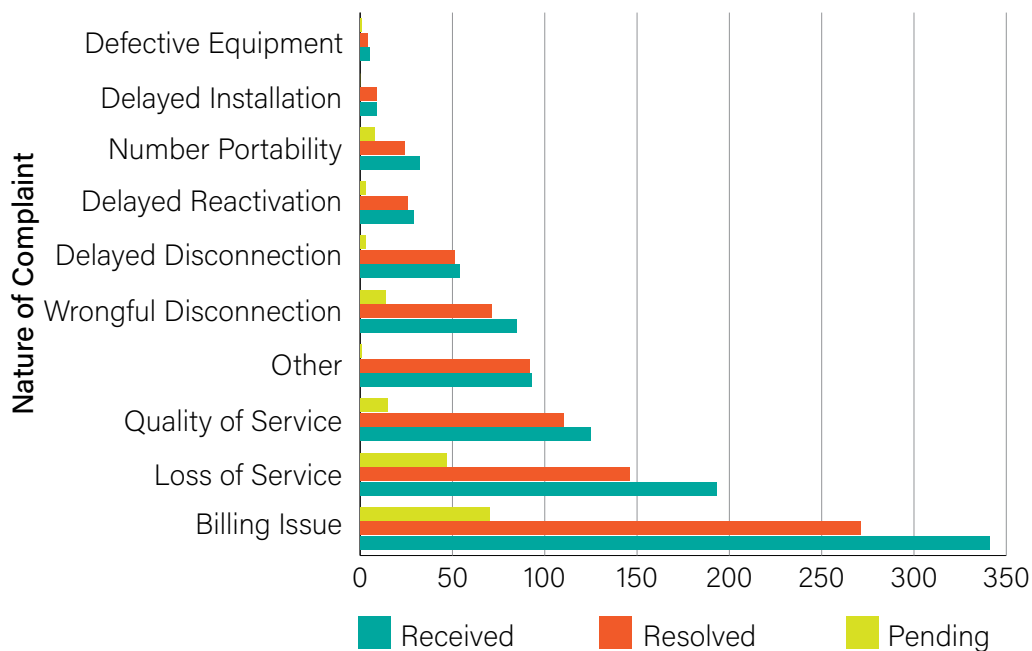


FIGURE 3.
Consumer Complaints Handled from 1st October 2021 to 30th September 2022

Of the total complaints received, fixed line accounted for the majority, with 586 complaints (60.6%). This was followed by Internet service, with 188 complaints (19.4%). Complaints related to mobile and pay TV services were next, accounting for 147 complaints (15.2%) and 45 complaints (4.6%), respectively.

Consumer Complaints Committee

The Consumer Complaints Committee (CCC) was established in May 2008, in accordance with section 18(q) of the Act, and is responsible for addressing complaints

that have not been resolved at the operational level.

The current CCC was appointed on 15th December 2021 and met on three occasions during the financial year under review. Discussions centred on consumer-related matters such as:

- ▶ review of the Consumer Complaints Charter
- ▶ review of the procedures for handling complaints
- ▶ report on the consumer complaints database information
- ▶ report on fixed line complaints

Broadcasting Content Complaints

The Authority receives complaints regarding both FTA radio and television broadcasting content. As shown in Table 4 and Figure 4, during the financial year under review, 25 complaints were submitted, of which 20 were resolved. The remaining five complaints were unresolved for varying reasons, including the requisite information not being submitted for a proper review to be conducted; a significant lapse of time between the date of the broadcast and the complaint date; and the actual broadcast not being available for a review to be conducted.

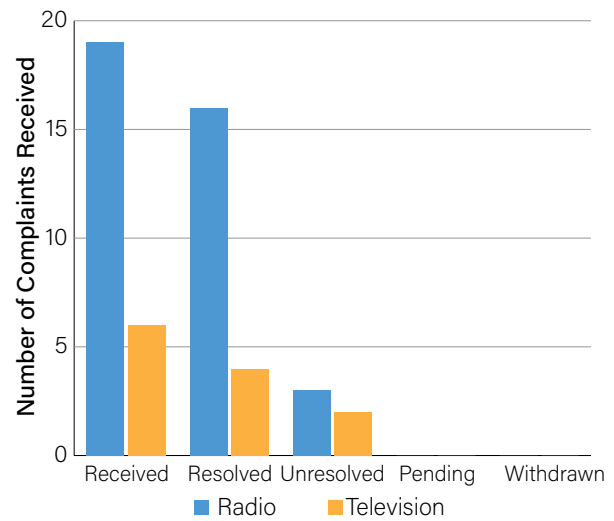


FIGURE 4.
Broadcasting Content Complaints from 1st October 2021 to 30th September 2022

TABLE 4.

Broadcasting Complaints as at 30th September 2022

Type of Complaint	Received	Resolved	Pending	Unresolved	Withdrawn
Radio	19	16	-	3	-
Television	6	4	-	2	-
Total	25	20	-	5	-

Interference Complaints

Under section 18(l) of the Act, the Authority is mandated to investigate and resolve all allegations of harmful interference and to issue “cease or modify” orders to those causing the interference.

In all instances, the Authority evaluates such complaints, in accordance with its complaints process. First, the existence of the harmful interference is verified. Once the interference has been confirmed, the Authority proceeds to investigate the external source, looking at the nature of the service, the severity of the interference, the impact on the authorised

user(s), and any action taken by the licensee to resolve the problem. On the basis of the Authority’s findings, the necessary action is then taken to resolve the complaint.

For the financial year 2021 – 2022, the Authority received 10 complaints regarding harmful interference, all of which were telecommunications related. During the period under review, eight complaints were resolved and two were pending the outcome of investigations and are expected to be resolved in the new financial year.

Licence Applications

During the financial year, 381 licence applications were granted and none were either declined or withdrawn. At the end of the financial period, 133 applications were pending approval.

Figure 5 illustrates the number and types of licence applications that were either granted or pending approval during the period.

Concession Applications

The granting of concessions to existing and potential service providers is done in accordance with the Authority’s Authorisation Framework for the Telecommunications and Broadcasting Sectors of Trinidad and Tobago.

Table 5 shows the status of concession applications as at the end of the financial year, i.e., applications brought forward from the previous financial year; those received in the current year; applications that were approved; and those which were pending.

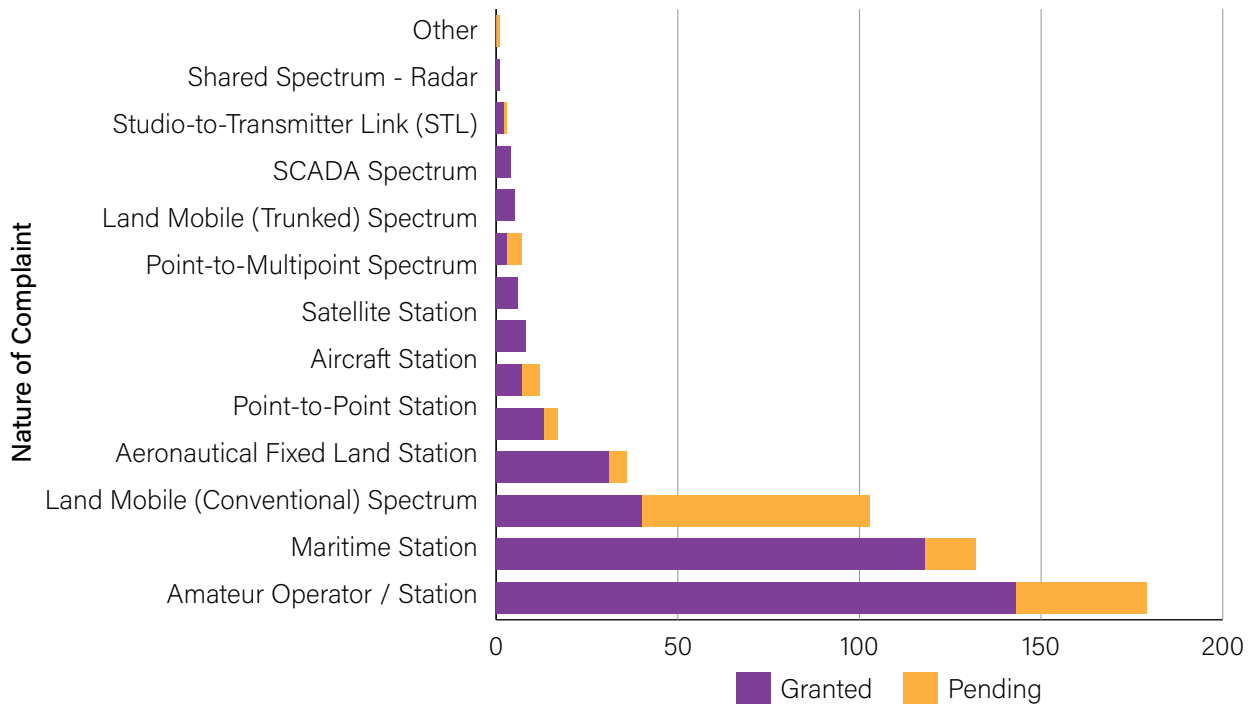


FIGURE 5.
Status of Licence Applications as at 30th September 2022

TABLE 5.

Concession Applications as at 30th September 2022

Application Type	Applications Brought Forward		Applications Received 2021 – 2022		Applications Approved	Applications Pending	Applications Rejected
	New	Renewal	New	Renewal			
International Telecommunications	-	1	-	-	1	-	-
FTA Radio	-	-	-	1	-	1	-
FTA Television	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mobile Telecommunications	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Subscription Television Broadcasting	-	1	-	-	1	-	-
Television Broadcasting Service via Cable	1	-	-	1	1	1	-
Fixed Telecommunications	1	-	2	-	-	2	-
SUB-TOTAL	2	2	2	2	3	4	1
TOTAL	4		4		8		

Four concession applications were brought forward from the previous financial year. Two new applications and two renewal applications were received during the period under review. As at the end of the financial year, three applications were approved and four were pending approval.

Tower Administration

Tower administration is the process by which the Authority approves the location of new towers or recommends co-location between service providers on existing towers, usually to provide mobile telecommunications services. Service providers are required to apply to the Authority for tower non-objection, and their applications are assessed to ensure they meet the criteria for co-location of sites, i.e., the distance between towers and the feasibility of co-location.

One non-objection application from the Telecommunications Services of Trinidad and Tobago Limited (TSTT) was received and approved by the Authority over the period 2021 – 2022.

Radiofrequency Radiation (RFR) Measurements of Cellular and Wi-Fi Sites

A total of 204 RFR measurements were conducted at the following cellular sites, all of which were found to be within acceptable limits:

- ▼ TSTT – 98 sites
- ▼ Digicel (Trinidad & Tobago) Limited – 96 sites
- ▼ Green Dot Limited – 10 sites

Numbering Assignment

Central Office (CO) codes are assigned by the Authority to operators of both fixed and mobile telephone networks. The CO codes are three digits in length and usually identify the operator and the switching office providing the service to the customer.

For the period 2021 – 2022, there were no new CO codes issued to operators of both fixed and mobile telephone networks.

Mobile Number Portability

Mobile number portability commenced in Trinidad and Tobago on 31st October 2016. During the period under review, a total of 37,391 mobile numbers were ported between the two mobile operators, namely, Digicel and TSTT.

Six years after the launch of mobile number portability in Trinidad and Tobago, over 100,000 mobile numbers have been ported between the two mobile providers.

Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)

The Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) gives members of the public a general right (with exceptions) to access the official documents of public authorities. During the financial year, the Authority received six requests, five of which were fulfilled. The outstanding request will be fulfilled in the new financial year.

Satellite Coordination

The Authority receives and processes, on behalf of the Ministry of Digital Transformation, requests for satellite coordination from ITU, to ensure newly proposed satellite systems or changes to existing satellite systems do not cause harmful interference to existing systems in Trinidad and Tobago, including its orbital allotment. During the financial year, the Authority received and processed 32 requests for satellite coordination, of which 30 were approved. The Authority has submitted disagreements with the remaining two requests, based on potential interference to Trinidad and Tobago's orbital allotment, and has requested further information/discussions with the filing administrations.



National Broadband Performance 2022

Mobile

Based on the Ookla® Speedtest Intelligence® platform¹⁴, the median download speed measured from July 2022 to September 2022 was 30.8 Mbps for mobile broadband subscribers – an improvement of 5% over the previous 12 months. The median upload speed measured for the same period was 11.0 Mbps, representing an improvement of 19% over the previous 12-month period, with a mean latency of 35.6 ms measured. It was also determined that 68.8% of mobile

¹⁴ Analysis done by the Authority based on Speedtest Intelligence® data for July to September 2021 and July to September 2022. Ookla trademarks used under licence and reprinted with permission.

device measurements were conducted on a 4G network – an increase of 12% over the previous year – while 27.6% were conducted on a 3G network.

Fixed

Similarly, the median download speed measured from July 2022 to September 2022 was 77.9 Mbps for fixed broadband subscribers – an improvement of 8% over the previous 12 months. The median upload speed measured for the same period was 25.2 Mbps, representing an improvement of 39% over the previous 12-month period, with a mean latency of 15.6 ms.

Figure 6 shows a map of fixed broadband coverage in the period July 2022 to September 2022 in Trinidad and Tobago.

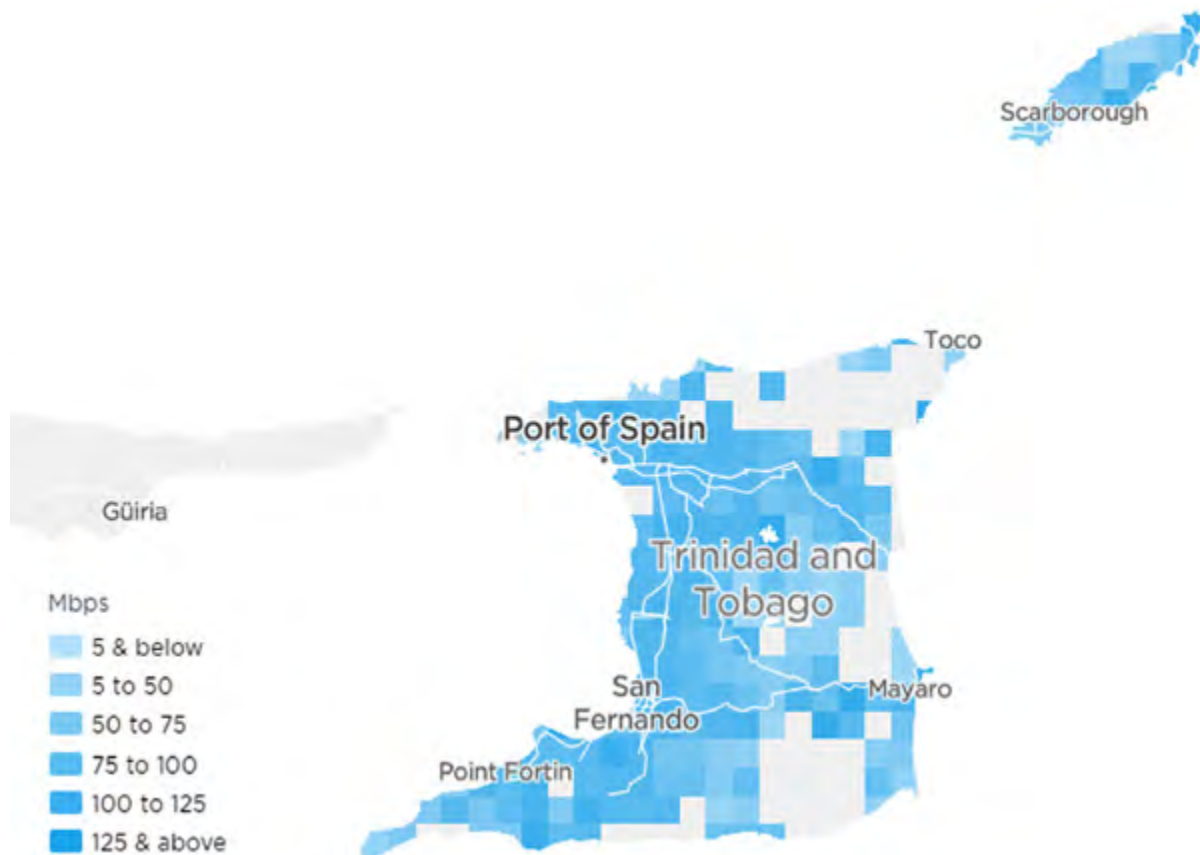


FIGURE 6.

Map of Fixed Broadband Coverage in the Period from July to September 2022



**FINANCIAL
PERFORMANCE**

The Authority generates its own revenues, sourced primarily from concession and licence fees levied on all service providers within the telecommunications and broadcasting sectors. These funds are used to finance the operations of the Authority as it delivers on its mandate. Surpluses are paid into the Consolidated Fund, in accordance with section 53(7) of the Act.

Pursuant to sections 56 and 57 of the Act, the Authority prepares financial statements in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards, which are Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAPs) adopted in Trinidad and Tobago and subject to an annual audit.

The Authority achieved gross revenues of TT\$105,838,773 during the financial year 2021/22 – an increase of approximately 9.6% from the previous year. Of this amount, concession and licence fees generated revenues of TT\$28,266,188 and TT\$76,838,256, respectively.

The Authority's operating expenditure for the year totalled TT\$57,659,829. This represents an increase of approximately 10.9% over the previous year's expenditure of TT\$51,961,290. Capital expenditure for the year totalled TT\$1,173,653.

The surplus for the year 2021/22 is TT\$48,178,945.

The Authority's receivables of TT\$27,253,853 represent an increase of approximately 58% over the previous year. Accounts payables and accruals increased by approximately 7.5% over the financial year, to TT\$4,823,332.

As at 30th September 2022, the balance in the Universal Service Fund (USF) was TT\$120,134,678. This balance includes

the transfer of funds in the amount of TT\$10,000,000 from the Authority's surplus revenues derived from concession and licence fees earned in the financial year 2020/21.

With the coming into force of the Telecommunications (Universal Service) Regulations, USF contributions are being used to fund several key initiatives geared towards bridging the digital divide – the gap between those who have access to telecommunications services in Trinidad and Tobago and those who do not.

During the period under review, the Authority continued its implementation of the following mandatory universal service initiatives:

1. Phase 2 of GORTT's National Free Wi-Fi Initiative (TTWIFI) – schools, libraries, transport hubs and health institutions.
2. The provision of subsidised mobile devices with assistive technologies for the visually and/or hearing impaired.

The Authority also continued its work on two contractual USF projects as follows:

1. The establishment of five ICT access centres in Trinidad and Tobago. The objective is to improve the existing modes of Internet access and access to online services in the targeted rural communities, in alignment with the vision and goals of the National ICT Plan.
2. The deployment of telecommunications access infrastructure that will facilitate the provision of broadband Internet access service in the villages of the Parish of St. John, Tobago.



**Telecommunications Authority
of Trinidad and Tobago**

DIGITAL INCLUSION

Smarter Living for Everyone

Annual Report 2021 – 2022

Financial Statements

30th September 2022

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Statement of Management's Responsibilities

It is the responsibility of management to prepare financial statements for each financial year which present fairly, in all material respects, the state of affairs of the Telecommunications Authority of Trinidad and Tobago (the 'Authority') as at the end of the financial year and the operating results of the Authority for the year. It also requires management to ensure that the Authority keeps proper accounting records, which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Authority. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Authority.

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards ('IFRS'). This responsibility includes designing, implementing and maintaining internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies, and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

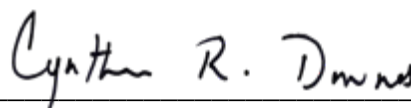
Management accepts responsibility for the annual financial statements, which have been prepared using appropriate accounting policies supported by reasonable and prudent judgements and estimates, in conformity with IFRS. Management is of the opinion that the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the state of the financial affairs of the Authority and its operating results. Management further accepts responsibility for the maintenance of accounting records, which may be relied upon in the preparation of financial statements, as well as adequate systems of internal financial control.

Nothing has come to the attention of Management to indicate that the Authority will not remain a going concern for at least the next twelve months from the date of this statement.

Management affirms that it has carried out its responsibilities as outlined above.



Gilbert Peterson, S.C.
Chairman
30th November 2022



Cynthia Reddock-Downes
Chief Executive Officer
30th November 2022

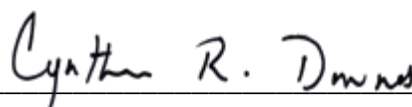
Statement of Financial Position

(Expressed in Trinidad and Tobago dollars)

	Notes	As at 30 Sep 2022 \$	As at 30 Sep 2021 \$
ASSETS			
Non-current assets			
Plant and Equipment	6	9,642,977	11,021,100
Right of Use Assets	7	6,223,714	9,618,467
Total non-current assets		<u>15,866,691</u>	<u>20,639,567</u>
Current assets			
Receivables	8	27,253,853	17,226,769
Universal Service Fund			
Contribution Receivable	8	28,652,449	30,446,009
Cash and Bank Balance	9a	17,752,845	22,515,125
Cash and Bank Balance - restricted	9b	120,134,678	117,942,656
Total current assets		<u>193,793,825</u>	<u>188,130,558</u>
Total assets		<u>209,660,516</u>	<u>208,770,125</u>
LIABILITIES & RESERVES			
Reserves			
Reserves : Universal Service Fund	10	148,601,294	148,344,601
Total reserves		<u>148,601,294</u>	<u>148,344,601</u>
Non-current liabilities			
Deferred Income	11	55,538	72,863
Net Defined Benefit Obligation	21	1,452,307	1,323,588
Lease Liability - Right of Use Asset	12	2,828,082	6,021,667
Total non-current liabilities		<u>4,335,927</u>	<u>7,418,118</u>
Current Liabilities			
Accounts Payable and Accruals	13	4,823,332	4,486,284
Lease Liability - Right of Use Asset	12	3,488,241	3,596,451
Net Defined Benefit Obligation	21	46,944	275,635
Universal Service Fund Contribution Payable	13	185,833	44,063
Due to Consolidated Fund		48,178,945	44,604,972
Total Current Liabilities		<u>56,701,855</u>	<u>53,007,405</u>
Total Liabilities and reserves		<u>209,660,516</u>	<u>208,770,125</u>



Gilbert Peterson, S.C.
Chairman



Cynthia Reddock-Downes
Chief Executive Officer

These financial statements were approved for issue on the 30th November 2022 by the Board of the Telecommunications Authority of Trinidad and Tobago.

The Notes on pages 55 to 74 form an integral part of these Financial Statements.

Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income

(Expressed in Trinidad and Tobago dollars)

	Notes	Year Ended 30 Sep 2022 \$	Year Ended 30 Sep 2021 \$
Income			
Concession Fees		28,266,188	30,083,036
Licence Fees		76,838,256	65,741,000
Bank Interest		37	86
Other Income		716,967	719,783
Amortisation of Deferred Income	11	17,325	22,357
Total Income		105,838,773	96,566,262
Expenses			
Communications, Marketing & Policy Expenses	14	2,470,062	1,526,945
Fees-Legal & Professional	15	2,758,650	1,778,424
Training	16	1,830,456	239,845
Utilities		1,156,565	1,203,167
Rent/Lease Expenses		299,281	265,360
Staff Costs	17	34,948,640	33,781,710
Repairs and Maintenance		892,181	779,730
Other Administrative Costs	18	7,277,081	6,308,164
Interest Expense		243,389	67,064
Depreciation	19	5,783,523	6,010,881
Total Expenses		57,659,828	51,961,290
Profit for the year		48,178,945	44,604,972
Other comprehensive income		0	0
Total comprehensive income		48,178,945	44,604,972

The Notes on pages 55 to 74 form an integral part of these Financial Statements.



Statement of Changes in Amount Due to Consolidated Fund

(Expressed in Trinidad and Tobago dollars)

	Year ended 30 Sep 2022 \$	Year ended 30 Sep 2021 \$
Amount due to Consolidated Fund at the beginning of the year	44,604,972	45,163,109
Payment to Consolidated Fund during the year	(34,604,972)	(45,163,109)
Transfer to Universal Service Fund	(10,000,000)	0
Outstanding amount brought forward	0	0
Net surplus for the current year	48,178,945	44,604,972
Amount due to Consolidated Fund at the end of the year	<u>48,178,945</u>	<u>44,604,972</u>

The Notes on pages 55 to 74 form an integral part of these Financial Statements.

Statement of Cash Flows

(Expressed in Trinidad and Tobago dollars)

	Year ended 30 Sep 2022 \$	Year ended 30 Sep 2021 \$
Cash flows from operating activities		
Profit for the year	48,178,945	44,604,972
Adjustment for non-cash Items:		
Amortization of deferred income	(17,325)	(22,357)
Interest expense	243,389	67,064
Depreciation	5,783,523	6,010,881
Gain on disposal of property, plant and equipment	9,575	47,590
Impairment	149,238	0
	<u>54,347,345</u>	<u>50,708,149</u>
Changes in		
(Increase)/Decrease in receivables	(10,027,084)	2,699,270
Increase in accounts payable and accruals	237,076	1,291,934
Reserves- Universal Service Fund	2,192,022	6,705,447
Net cash generated from operating activities	<u>46,749,359</u>	<u>61,404,800</u>
Cash flows from investing activities		
Acquisition of property, plant and equipment	(1,173,653)	(1,795,575)
Acquisition of right of use assets	0	(10,184,259)
Proceeds from sale of property, plant and equipment	4,192	0
Net cash used in investing activities	<u>(1,169,461)</u>	<u>(11,979,835)</u>
Cash flows from financing activities		
Amount paid to Consolidated Fund	(34,604,972)	(45,163,109)
Amount paid to Universal Service Fund	(10,000,000)	0
Interest paid	(243,389)	(67,064)
Proceeds from lease for right of use asset	0	10,184,259
Repayment of lease liabilities	(3,301,795)	(3,478,120)
Net cash used in financing activities	<u>(48,150,156)</u>	<u>(38,524,034)</u>
Net (decrease)/increase in cash and cash equivalents	<u>(2,570,258)</u>	<u>10,900,931</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at start of year	<u>140,457,781</u>	<u>129,556,849</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year	<u>137,887,523</u>	<u>140,457,781</u>
Restricted cash at start of year	117,942,656	111,237,209
Restricted cash at end of year	120,134,678	117,942,656

The Notes on pages 55 to 74 form an integral part of these Financial Statements.

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 30th September 2022 (Expressed in Trinidad and Tobago dollars)

1. General Information

The Telecommunications Authority of Trinidad and Tobago (the 'Authority') is an independent regulatory body, established by the Telecommunications Act (the 'Act') Chapter 47:31. The Authority is charged with the responsibility for the regulation of the telecommunications and broadcasting sectors of Trinidad and Tobago.

The Authority's mandate includes recommendations to the Minister for the granting of Concessions, the granting of Spectrum Licences and the collection of related fees, the determination of Universal Service obligations throughout Trinidad and Tobago, the establishment of National Telecommunications Industry Standards and Technical Standards, Price Regulation and Consumer Protection.

The Authority became operational on 1st July 2004.

The Authority is located at # 5 Eighth Avenue Extension, off Twelfth Street, Barataria, Trinidad.

The Authority reports to the Ministry of Digital Transformation.

2. Adoption of new and revised International Financial Reporting Standards

(a) New and amended standards and interpretations

The following new standard and interpretation apply for the annual reporting period commencing 1st October 2021.

- i. Amendments to IFRS 9, IAS 39 and IFRS 7 – Interest rate benchmark reform – Phase 2

These amendments had no impact on the financial statements.

(b) Standards and interpretations issued but not yet effective

The following standards and interpretations, that have been issued but are not yet effective, are not expected to have a material impact of the financial statements of the Authority:

- i. Reference to the Conceptual Framework – Amendments to IFRS 3¹
- ii. Property, Plant and Equipment: Proceeds before Intended Use – Amendments to IAS 16¹
- iii. Onerous Contracts – Cost of Fulfilling a Contract – Amendments to IAS 37¹
- iv. AIP IFRS 9 Financial Instruments – Fees in the '10 per cent' test for derecognition of financial liabilities¹
- v. Classification of Liabilities as Current or Non-current – Amendments to IAS 1²
- vi. Definition of Accounting Estimates – Amendments to IAS 8²
- vii. Disclosure of Accounting Policies – Amendments to IAS 1 and IFRS Practice Statement 2²

¹ Effective for annual periods beginning on or after 1st January 2022, with earlier application permitted.

² Effective for annual periods beginning on or after 1st January 2023, with earlier application permitted.

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

For the year ended 30th September 2022 (Expressed in Trinidad and Tobago dollars)

3. Summary of significant accounting policies

The principal accounting policies adopted in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. The policies have been consistently applied to all the years presented unless otherwise stated.

Basis of preparation

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards ('IFRS') and IFRS Interpretations Committee (IFRS IC). The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

The preparation of these financial statements in conformity with IFRS requires the use of certain critical accounting estimates. It also requires management to exercise its judgement in the process of applying the Authority's accounting policies.

These financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis.

a) Plant and equipment

All plant and equipment is stated at historical cost less accumulated depreciation. Historical cost includes expenditure that is directly attributable to the acquisition of the items of plant and equipment. Subsequent costs are included in the asset's carrying amount or recognised as a separate asset, as appropriate, only when it is probable that future economic benefits associated with the item will flow to the Authority and the cost of the item can be measured reliably. All other repairs and maintenance costs are charged to the statement of profit or loss during the financial period in which they are incurred.

Plant and equipment are depreciated on the reducing balance basis at rates estimated to write off the cost of fixed assets over their useful lives. Current rates of depreciation are as follows:

Fixtures and fittings	20%
Computer equipment and software	25%
Office furniture and equipment	20%
Motor vehicles	25%
Telecommunication equipment and related software	25%

An asset's carrying amount is written down immediately to its recoverable amount if the asset's carrying amount is greater than its estimated recoverable amount.

Gains and losses on disposals are determined by comparing the proceeds with the carrying amount and are recognised in the statement of profit or loss.

b) Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash on hand, deposits held at call with banks. Cash and cash equivalents are defined as restricted when the funds can only be applied to facilitate the provision of Universal Service as defined in the Telecommunications Act Chapter 47:31.

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

For the year ended 30th September 2022 (Expressed in Trinidad and Tobago dollars)

3. Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)

c) Financial assets - Loans and receivables

The Authority classifies its cash and cash equivalent, loans and receivables as financial assets. Financial assets are classified at initial recognition and subsequently measured at amortised cost. Interest income from these assets is included in Interest Income on the statement of comprehensive income. The carrying amount of these assets are adjusted by any expected credit loss allowance recognised and measured as explained in Note 3e.

d) Government grants

Government grants related to fixed assets are deferred in the statement of financial position and amortised over the estimated useful lives of the assets to which it relates.

e) Trade Receivables

Trade receivables are carried at original invoice amount less an allowance made for credit losses of these receivables. The Authority applied the IFRS 9 simplified approach to measuring expected credit losses which uses a lifetime expected loss allowance for trade receivables. Trade receivables have been grouped based on similar credit risk characteristics and the days past due. A provision for expected credit loss is assessed when there is evidence that the Authority will not be able to collect the amounts due. The receivables are reduced through an allowance account and the loss is recognised in the statement of comprehensive income. When an account is uncollectable it is written off against the allowance account. Subsequent recoveries of amounts previously written off are credited to the statement of comprehensive income.

Trade receivables are written off (ie derecognised) when there is no reasonable expectation of recovery. Failure to renew licence and failure to engage with the Authority on alternative payment arrangements amongst other factors are considered indicators of no reasonable expectation of recovery.

f) Trade payables

Trade payables are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of business from suppliers. Trade payables are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities.

Trade payables are recognised initially at fair value and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

For the year ended 30th September 2022 (Expressed in Trinidad and Tobago dollars)

3. Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)

g) Reserves

Universal Service Fund

In accordance with the Telecommunications Act (2001) Section 28 (3), the Board approves the appropriation of reserves to the Universal Service Fund. Section 53(3) of the Act restricts the use of these funds to the provision of Universal Service.

Consolidated Fund

In accordance with the Telecommunications Act (2001) Section 53 (7), "At the end of each financial year, any surplus of funds remaining in the account opened in accordance with subsection (5), after defraying the expenditure referred to in subsection (2), shall be paid into the Consolidated Fund".

h) Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the Authority has a present legal or constructive obligation as a result of past events, it is probable that an outflow of resources embodying economic benefits will be required to settle the obligations and a reliable estimate of the amount of the obligation can be made.

Where there are a number of similar obligations, the likelihood that an outflow will be required in settlement is determined by considering the class of obligations as a whole. A provision is recognised even if the likelihood of an outflow with respect to any one item included in the same class of obligations may be small.

i) Leases

The Authority assesses whether a contract is or contains a lease, at inception of the contract. The Authority recognises a right-of-use asset and a corresponding lease liability with respect to all lease arrangements in which it is the lessee, except for short-term leases (defined as leases with a lease term of 12 months or less) and leases of low value assets (such as tablets and personal computers, small items of office furniture and telephones). For these leases, the Authority recognises the lease payments as an operating expense on a straight-line basis over the term of the lease unless another systematic basis is more representative of the time pattern in which economic benefits from the leased assets are consumed.

The lease liability is initially measured at the present value of the lease payments that are not paid at the commencement date, discounted by using the rate implicit in the lease. If this rate cannot be readily determined, the Authority uses its incremental borrowing rate.

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

For the year ended 30th September 2022 (Expressed in Trinidad and Tobago dollars)

3. Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)

i) Leases (continued)

Lease payments included in the measurement of the lease liability comprise:

- i. Fixed lease payments (including in-substance fixed payments), less any lease incentives receivable;
- ii. Variable lease payments that depend on an index or rate, initially measured using the index or rate at the commencement date;
- iii. The amount expected to be payable by the lessee under residual value guarantees;
- iv. The exercise price of purchase options, if the lessee is reasonably certain to exercise the options; and
- v. Payments of penalties for terminating the lease, if the lease term reflects the exercise of an option to terminate the lease.

The lease liability is presented as a separate line in the statement of financial position. The lease liability is subsequently measured by increasing the carrying amount to reflect interest on the lease liability (using the effective interest method) and by reducing the carrying amount to reflect the lease payments made.

The Authority remeasures the lease liability (and makes a corresponding adjustment to the related right-of-use asset) whenever:

- i. The lease term has changed or there is a significant event or change in circumstances resulting in a change in the assessment of exercise of a purchase option, in which case the lease liability
- ii. The lease payments change due to changes in an index or rate or a change in expected payment under a guaranteed residual value, in which cases the lease liability is remeasured by discounting the revised lease payments using an unchanged discount rate (unless the lease payments change is due to a change in a floating interest rate, in which case a revised discount rate is used).
- iii. A lease contract is modified and the lease modification is not accounted for as a separate lease, in which case the lease liability is remeasured based on the lease term of the modified lease by discounting the revised lease payments using a revised discount rate at the effective date of the modification.

The Authority did not make any such adjustments during the periods presented.

The right-of-use assets comprise the initial measurement of the corresponding lease liability, lease payments made at or before the commencement day, less any lease incentives received and any initial direct costs. They are subsequently measured at cost less accumulated depreciation and impairment losses.

Right-of-use assets are depreciated over the shorter period of lease term and useful life of the underlying asset. If a lease transfers ownership of the underlying asset or the cost of the right-of-use asset reflects that the Authority expects to exercise a purchase option, the related right-of-use asset is depreciated over the useful life of the underlying asset. The depreciation starts at the commencement date of the lease.

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

For the year ended 30th September 2022 (Expressed in Trinidad and Tobago dollars)

3. Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)

i) Leases (continued)

The right-of-use assets are presented as a separate line in the statement of financial position.

The Authority applies IAS 36 to determine whether a right-of-use asset is impaired and accounts for any identified impairment loss.

j) Taxation

Pursuant to section 54 of the Telecommunications Act, the Authority is exempt from income tax.

k) Employee benefits

- i. Short Term Employee Benefits – The cost of short term employee benefits (those payable) within 12 months after the service is rendered are recognised in the period in which the service is rendered and not discounted.
- ii. Defined Contribution Plans – Payments to defined contribution plans are expensed as they fall due
- iii. Defined Benefit Obligations – The Authority has an obligation to provide pension benefits to officers transferred to the Authority under Section 62 of the Telecommunications Act 47:31. This obligation is to provide that these employees will be paid benefits at the amount when combined with the relevant pension law, is equivalent to the benefit based on the pensionable service in the Public Service or a statutory authority combined with the service in the Authority and calculated at the final salary applicable on the date service was terminated.. Changes to the estimates are expensed in the year determined. (see Note 21).

l) Foreign currency translation

- i. Functional and presentation currency
Items included in the financial statements of the Authority are measured using the currency of the primary economic environment in which the Authority operates ('the functional currency'). The financial statements are presented in Trinidad and Tobago dollars, which is the Authority's functional and presentation currency.
- ii. Transactions and balances
Foreign currency transactions are translated into the functional currency using the exchange rates prevailing at the dates of the transactions. Foreign exchange gains and losses resulting from the settlement of such transactions and from the translation at year-end exchange rates of monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are recognised in the statement of profit or loss.

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

For the year ended 30th September 2022 (Expressed in Trinidad and Tobago dollars)

3. Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)

m) Revenue recognition

The following table indicates how the Authority has applied IFRS 15's five step process to recognise revenue in its Financial Statement.

IFRS 15 – Recognition Steps	Authority's Approach
1. Identify the contract with the customer	The majority of the Authority Revenue is derived from fees for <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Concessions ii. Licenses
2. Identify the performance obligations in the contract	The Authority allows the Concessionaire / Licensee to operate and utilise Spectrum under the terms and conditions specified in its relevant Concession / License.
3. Determine the transaction price;	Fees are established under the Telecommunication (Fees) Regulations, 2006
4. Allocate the transaction price to the performance obligations in the contracts;	Allocation of Fees are also specified under the Telecommunication (Fees) Regulation, 2006.
5. Recognise revenue when (or as) the entity satisfies a performance obligation	<p>Application Fees are recognised when the Concession / License has been processed.</p> <p>Due to invoicing guidelines set forth in the Telecommunication (Fees) Regulation 2006 Sections 3 (2), 7 (1), 11 (2) and 12 (1) Concession / License Fees are recognised when invoiced.</p> <p>Interest income is recognised as it accrues, unless collectability is in doubt.</p> <p>Income is also recognised from receipt of Government grants. See note 3(d) for Government grants.</p> <p>In the event that a material invoice is not prepared at the Authority's year end and accrual for the revenue is made.</p>

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

For the year ended 30th September 2022 (Expressed in Trinidad and Tobago dollars)

3. Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)

n) Impairment of assets

The carrying amounts of the Authority's assets are reviewed at each statement of financial position date to determine whether there is any indication of impairment. If any such indication exists, the asset's recoverable amount is estimated.

An impairment loss is recognised whenever the carrying amount of an asset or its cash-generating unit exceeds its recoverable amount. Impairment losses are recognised in the statement of profit or loss.

i. Calculation of recoverable amount

The recoverable amount of other assets is the greater of their net selling price and value in use. In assessing value in use, the estimated future cash flows are discounted to their present value using a discount rate that reflects current market assessments of the time value of money and the risks specific to the asset. For an asset that does not generate largely independent cash inflows, the recoverable amount is determined for the cash-generating unit to which the asset belongs.

ii. Reversals of impairment

An impairment loss is reversed if there has been a change in the estimates used to determine the recoverable amount.

An impairment loss is reversed only to the extent that the asset's carrying amount does not exceed the carrying amount that would have been determined, net of depreciation or amortisation, if no impairment loss had been recognised.

4. Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the Authority's accounting policies, which are described in note 3, management of the Authority are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates. Key sources of uncertainty, which require the use of estimates, include:

Useful lives and residual values of plant and equipment

The estimates of useful lives as translated into depreciation rates are detailed in the plant and equipment policy above. These rates and the residual lives of the assets are reviewed annually taking cognizance of the forecasted commercial and economic realities and through benchmarking of accounting treatments within the industry.

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

For the year ended 30th September 2022 (Expressed in Trinidad and Tobago dollars)

4. Critical accounting estimates and judgements (continued)

Allowance for expected credit losses of trade receivables

The Authority makes use of a simplified approach in accounting for trade receivables and records the loss allowance as lifetime expected credit losses. The Authority uses a provision matrix to calculate ECLS for trade receivables. The provision rates are based on groupings of various customers segments that have similar loss patterns (customer type, age of receivable, coverage by payment agreements, status of concession).

The information about the ECLs on the Authority's trade receivables is disclosed in Note 22.

Contingent liabilities

Management applies its judgement to the facts and advice it receives from its attorneys, advocates and other advisors in assessing if an obligation is probable, more likely than not, or remote. Such judgement is used to determine if the obligation is recognised as a liability or disclosed as a contingent liability.

Defined benefit obligations

The level of benefits to be provided depends on the member's length of service and salary at retirement age. In determining the liability for defined benefit obligations (explained in note 21), management must make an estimate of life expectancy of relevant officers and the discount rate to use in the present value calculation. Due to the complexities involved in the valuation and its long-term nature, a defined benefit obligation is highly sensitive to changes in these assumptions. All assumptions are reviewed at each reporting date. The mortality rate is based on publicly available mortality tables for the Trinidad and Tobago. Salary information used in the calculation is based on existing salary at the time of the review.

The table below shows the assumptions made.

	30 Sep 2022	30 Sep 2021
Discount Rate	4%	4%
Life Expectancy Female	80	84
Life Expectancy Male	73	81

Leases – estimating the incremental borrowing rate

The Authority cannot readily determine the interest rate implicit in the lease. It uses the incremental borrowing rate. The IBR is the rate of interest that the Authority would have to pay to borrow over a similar term with similar security in a similar economic environment. The Authority has applied the rate available to government for a bond of similar tenure to the lease.

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

For the year ended 30th September 2022 (Expressed in Trinidad and Tobago dollars)

5. Financial risk management

a) Market risk

The Authority's activities do not expose it to any significant market risks (including currency risk, fair value interest rate and price risk).

i) Cash flow and fair value interest rate risk

As the Authority has no significant interest-bearing assets, the Authority's income and operating cash flows are substantially independent of changes in market interest rates. The Authority does not own any investments.

ii) Currency risk

Currency risk is the risk that the value of a financial instrument will fluctuate due to changes in foreign exchange rates. The majority of the financial instruments of the Authority are denominated in Trinidad and Tobago dollars, thus, the risk to the Authority is considered minimal.

b) Credit risk

Credit risk arises from cash and cash equivalents as well as credit exposures to customers for outstanding receivables. The Authority does not have significant credit risk exposure to any single third-party counterparty or any group of counterparties having similar characteristics. The Authority defines counterparties as having similar characteristics if they are related entities.

Credit risk also arises from cash and deposits with banks and financial institutions. For banks and financial institutions, only those with good standing and with a sound reputation are used.

Customer credit risk is managed subject to the Authority's established policy, procedures and control relating to accounts receivable management. Outstanding customer receivables and are regularly monitored and collection methods employed including affording short term payment arrangements.

An impairment analysis is performed at each reporting date using a provision matrix to measure expected credit losses. The provision rates are based on days past due for groupings of various customer segments with similar loss patterns (customer type, age of receivable, coverage by payment agreements, status of concession). The Authority does not hold collateral as security.

c) Liquidity risk

Prudent liquidity risk management implies maintaining sufficient cash to meet all financial obligations as they become due.

The table below analyses the Authority's financial liabilities based on the remaining period at the balance sheet date to the contractual maturity date. The amounts disclosed are the contractual undiscounted cash flows. Balances due within 1 year equal their carrying balances, as the impact of discounting is not significant.

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

For the year ended 30th September 2022 (Expressed in Trinidad and Tobago dollars)

5. Financial risk management (continued)

c) Liquidity risk (continued)

	30 Sep 2022 \$	30 Sep 2021 \$
Cash and cash equivalents (not restricted)	17,752,845	22,515,125
Accounts payables and accruals		
Less than 1 year	4,823,332	4,486,284

6. Plant and equipment

	Telecommunication Equipment & Related Software \$	Computer Equipment & Software \$	Office Furniture & Equipment \$	Motor Vehicle \$	Fixture & Fittings \$	Work in Progress \$	Total Plant & Equipment \$
Cost							
At 1 st October 2021	24,862,806	15,324,733	4,711,470	2,006,325	290,108	2,578,272	49,773,714
Additions for the period	6,638	416,568	158,110	0	0	592,337	1,173,653
Transferred Assets	746,709	713,986	313,893	0	0	(1,774,588)	0
Disposal of Assets	0	(50,670)	0	0	0	0	(50,670)
Impairment	0	0	0	0	0	(149,238)	(149,238)
At 30 th September 2022	25,616,153	16,404,617	5,183,473	2,006,325	290,108	1,246,873	50,747,459
Depreciation							
At 1 st October 2021	21,266,534	12,174,457	3,773,539	1,299,046	239,038	0	38,752,614
Disposal of Assets	0	(36,902)	0	0	0	0	(36,902)
Charge for the period	1,006,710	966,330	228,696	176,820	10,214	0	2,388,770
At 30 th September 2022	22,273,244	13,103,885	4,002,235	1,475,866	249,252	0	41,104,482
Net Book Value at 1st October 2021	3,596,272	3,150,276	937,931	707,279	51,069	2,578,272	11,021,100
Net Book Value at 30th September 2022	3,342,909	3,300,732	1,181,238	530,459	40,856	1,246,783	9,642,977
Cost							
At 1 st October 2020	24,862,806	15,268,118	4,581,537	1,716,566	276,883	1,880,583	48,586,493
Additions for the period	0	4,752	62,283	289,759	13,225	1,425,557	1,795,576
Transferred Assets	0	660,218	67,650	0	0	(727,868)	(0)
Disposals	0	(608,355)	0	0	0	0	(608,355)
At 30 th September 2021	24,862,806	15,324,733	4,711,470	2,006,325	290,108	2,578,272	49,773,714
Depreciation							
At 1 st October 2020	20,067,777	11,742,742	3,547,088	1,105,625	227,546	0	36,690,778
Disposal of Assets	0	(560,764)	0	0	0	0	(560,764)
Expense for the year	1,198,757	992,479	226,451	193,421	11,492	0	2,622,600
At 30 th September 2021	21,266,534	12,174,457	3,773,539	1,299,046	239,038	0	38,752,614
Net Book Value at 1st October 2020	4,795,029	3,525,376	1,034,449	610,941	49,336	1,880,583	11,895,715
Net Book Value at 30th September 2021	3,596,272	3,150,276	937,931	707,279	51,070	2,578,272	11,021,100

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

For the year ended 30th September 2022 (Expressed in Trinidad and Tobago dollars)

7. Right of Use Assets

The Authority has deemed the lease for the Barataria Head Office to fall under IFRS 16 as a Right of Use Asset.

	Right of Use Assets - Building
	\$
Cost	
At 1 st October 2021	10,184,259
Additions for the period	<u>0</u>
At 30 th September 2022	<u>10,184,259</u>
Depreciation	
At 1 st October 2021	565,792
Charge for the period	3,394,753
Disposals	<u>0</u>
At 30 th September 2022	<u>3,960,545</u>
Carrying Amount at 1st October 2021	9,618,467
Carrying Amount at 30th September 2022	6,223,714

	Right of Use Assets - Building
	\$
Cost	
At 1 st October 2020	10,160,958
Additions for the period	10,184,259
Disposals	<u>(10,160,958)</u>
At 30 th September 2021	<u>10,184,259</u>
Depreciation	
At October 1, 2020	7,338,470
Charge for the period	3,388,281
Disposals	<u>(10,160,958)</u>
At 30 th September 2021	<u>565,792</u>
Carrying Amount at 1st October 2020	2,822,488
Carrying Amount at 30th September 2021	9,618,467

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

For the year ended 30th September 2022 (Expressed in Trinidad and Tobago dollars)

8. Trade and Other Receivables

	30 Sep 2022 \$	30 Sep 2021 \$
Trade Receivables	22,249,347	11,735,608
Less Provision for Bad Debts	(3,299,417)	(2,875,968)
Trade Receivables-Net	18,949,930	8,859,640
Staff Loan	135,004	120,885
Staff Loan (M. Vehicle)	862,112	1,096,930
Staff Loan (Corp Mobile)	(3,848)	(2,841)
VAT Receivable	5,548,990	3,720,942
Other Receivables/Prepayments	1,761,665	3,431,213
Goods In Transit	0	0
	<u>27,253,853</u>	<u>17,226,769</u>
Universal Service Fund – Receivables (Note 10)	28,652,449	30,446,009
	<u>55,906,302</u>	<u>47,672,778</u>

9a. Cash and Cash Equivalents

	30 Sep 2022 \$	30 Sep 2021 \$
Cash at Bank (TT\$ Account)	17,746,173	22,237,929
Cash at Bank (US\$ Account)	1,672	274,196
Cash on Hand (TT\$ Account)	5,000	3,000
	<u>17,752,845</u>	<u>22,515,125</u>

9b. Cash and Cash Equivalents - restricted

Universal Service Fund (TT\$ Account)	120,134,678	117,942,656
	<u>137,887,523</u>	<u>140,457,781</u>

10. Reserves: Universal Service Fund

In accordance with Section 28, 53. (1) (d) and 53. (6) of the Telecommunications Act (2001), the Authority is required to set aside funds for Universal Service obligations. Such funds are to be used exclusively for Universal Service obligations.

	30 Sep 2022 \$	30 Sep 2021 \$
Due to Universal Service Fund		
Balance at October 1	117,942,656	111,237,209
Cash Inflows	11,522,210	17,515,711
Cash Outflows	(9,330,188)	(10,810,264)
Universal Service Fund		
- Cash and Cash Equivalents	120,134,678	117,942,656
Universal Service Fund - Receivables	28,652,449	30,446,009
Universal Service Fund - Payables	(185,833)	(44,063)
Reserves - Universal Service Fund	148,601,294	148,344,602

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

For the year ended 30th September 2022 (Expressed in Trinidad and Tobago dollars)

11. Deferred income

	30 Sep 2022 \$	30 Sep 2021 \$
Government Grant relating to fixed asset at start of year	72,863	95,220
Amortization	<u>(17,325)</u>	<u>(22,357)</u>
	<u>55,538</u>	<u>72,863</u>

12. Lease Liability

Leasing arrangements

The Authority leases its facilities, which include executive and administrative offices which are renewed periodically. Substantially the lease provides that the lessee shall pay maintenance, insurance and certain other operating expenses applicable to the leased property.

The Authority renewed the lease on its Head Office in August 2021 for a further 3 years.

	30 Sep 2022 \$	30 Sep 2021 \$
Lease Liability		
Current	3,488,241	3,596,451
Non Current	<u>2,828,082</u>	<u>6,021,666</u>
	<u>6,316,323</u>	<u>9,618,117</u>

13. Accounts Payable and Accruals

	30 Sep 2022 \$	30 Sep 2021 \$
Accounts Payable	1,256,441	463,532
Deferred Revenue	132,900	94,435
Outstanding Commitments	2,900,866	3,809,358
Other Current Liabilities	532,526	118,959
Customer Deposit	<u>599</u>	<u>0</u>
	4,823,332	4,486,284
Universal Services Fund Contribution - Payables	<u>185,833</u>	<u>44,063</u>
	<u>5,009,165</u>	<u>4,530,347</u>

14. Communications, Marketing & Policy Expenses

	30 Sep 2022 \$	30 Sep 2021 \$
Promotions, publicity and printing	1,610,076	1,236,390
Official overseas travel	490,032	0
Hosting conferences / seminars	<u>369,954</u>	<u>290,555</u>
	<u>2,470,062</u>	<u>1,526,945</u>

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

For the year ended 30th September 2022 (Expressed in Trinidad and Tobago dollars)

15. Fees

These fees comprise mainly of legal fees incurred in compliance and enforcement, opinions from senior counsel and judicial review from the Authority's providers.

	30 Sep 2022	30 Sep 2021
	\$	\$
Legal and professional fees	1,941,189	1,178,809
Subscriptions and other charges	<u>817,461</u>	<u>599,615</u>
	<u><u>2,758,650</u></u>	<u><u>1,778,424</u></u>

16. Training

In accordance with Section 18. (1) (n) of the Act, the Authority is committed to continuous training of its personnel to ensure that the industry standards are in compliance with:

- i) International standards of the Telecommunications Union Convention
- ii) Testing and certifying of telecommunications equipment
- iii) Other relevant training necessary to achieve the objectives of the Act as outlined in Section 3 of the Act.

	30 Sep 2022	30 Sep 2021
	\$	\$
Training, registration fees	464,584	239,845
Foreign travel, per diems, airfare	<u>1,365,872</u>	<u>0</u>
	<u><u>1,830,456</u></u>	<u><u>239,845</u></u>

17. Staff Costs

	30 Sep 2022	30 Sep 2021
	\$	\$
Salaries	31,329,926	30,015,248
Directors' fees and expenses	659,458	515,765
Pension contributions	2,327,586	3,008,492
Short term employment	384,350	142,979
Other personnel expense	<u>247,320</u>	<u>99,226</u>
	<u><u>34,948,640</u></u>	<u><u>33,781,710</u></u>

The number of employees at **30th September 2022** was 102 (September 2021: 101).

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

For the year ended 30th September 2022 (Expressed in Trinidad and Tobago dollars)

18. Other Administrative Costs

	30 Sep 2022 \$	30 Sep 2021 \$
Security	600,928	642,508
Janitorial services	356,834	355,323
Supplies	668,489	523,740
Other contracted services	4,750,417	4,480,387
Allowance for credit loss	612,148	156,487
Impairment losses	149,238	0
Other administrative costs	139,027	149,719
	<u>7,277,081</u>	<u>6,308,164</u>

19. Depreciation

	30 Sep 2022 \$	30 Sep 2021 \$
Depreciation - Plant and Equipment	2,388,770	2,622,600
Depreciation - Right of Use Assets	3,394,753	3,388,281
	<u>5,783,523</u>	<u>6,010,881</u>

20. Related party transactions

A number of transactions are entered into with related parties in the normal course of business.

Parties are considered to be related if one party has the ability to control the other party or exercise significant influence over the other party in making financial decisions.

Key management personnel are those persons having the authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of the Authority.

These transactions were carried out on commercial terms and conditions at market rates, except loans to officers.

Related party transactions and balances

Balances and transactions with related parties and key management personnel during the year were as follows:

	30 Sep 2022 \$	30 Sep 2021 \$
Key Management Personnel Compensation		
Director fees and expenses	659,458	515,765
Salaries, NIS and Group Health	4,700,851	3,447,544
Pension Contribution	534,542	239,047
	<u>5,894,851</u>	<u>4,202,356</u>

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

For the year ended 30th September 2022 (Expressed in Trinidad and Tobago dollars)

21. Defined Benefit Obligation

The Authority has an obligation to provide defined pension benefits to officers transferred under Section 62 and 63 of the Telecommunications Act 47:31.

The Authority reviews the liability established to cover this obligation at the end of every year and recognises any change to the obligation through the income statement in that financial year.

The following tables summarise the components of net benefit obligation expense recognised in the statement of profit or loss and the amounts recognised in the statement of financial position for the obligation.

	30 Sep 2022	30 Sep 2021
	\$	\$
Net Defined Benefit Obligation		
At start of year	1,599,224	666,669
Expensed in year	177,618	969,615
Paid in year	<u>(277,591)</u>	<u>(37,060)</u>
At end of year	<u>1,499,251</u>	<u>1,599,224</u>
Net Defined Benefit Obligation		
Current	46,944	275,635
Non Current	<u>1,452,307</u>	<u>1,323,588</u>
	<u>1,499,251</u>	<u>1,599,224</u>

Sensitivity Analysis

Due to the complexities involved in the valuation and its long-term nature, a defined benefit obligation is highly sensitive to changes in these assumptions. All assumptions are reviewed at each reporting date. The following summarises the change in defined benefit obligation would result from a change in the assumptions

1% increase in discount rate	(\$146,229)
1% decrease in discount rate	\$164,574
1 year increase in life expectancy	\$64,564
1 year decrease in life expectancy	(\$67,195)

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

For the year ended 30th September 2022 (Expressed in Trinidad and Tobago dollars)

22. Expected Credit Losses

The Authority applies the IFRS 9 simplified model of recognising lifetime expected credit losses for all trade receivables as these items do not have a significant financing component. In measuring the expected credit losses, the trade receivables have been assessed on a collective basis as they possess shared credit risk characteristics. They have been grouped based on the days past due, status of concession and coverage under payment agreement.

On the above basis the expected credit loss for trade receivables at 30th September 2022 and 30th September 2021 was determined as follows:

30 th September 2022	Trade Receivables						Total Trade Receivable
	Current	On Payment Agreement	Delinquent Accounts	Over 5 years	Terminated Concessions	Other Trade Receivable	
Expected credit loss rate	0%	0%	50%	100%	100%	5%	
Estimated total gross carrying amount at default	2,195,071	642,588	838,484	1,774,895	279,293	16,519,016	22,249,347
Expected credit loss	0	0	419,242	1,774,895	279,293	825,987	3,299,417

30 th September 2021	Trade Receivables						Total Trade Receivable
	Current	On Payment Agreement	Delinquent Accounts	Over 5 years	Terminated Concessions	Other Trade Receivable	
Expected credit loss rate	0%	0%	50%	100%	100%	5%	
Estimated total gross carrying amount at default	1,502,580	305,867	1,541,022	1,774,895	0	6,611,245	11,735,608
Expected credit loss	0	0	770,511	1,774,895	0	330,562	2,875,968

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

For the year ended 30th September 2022 (Expressed in Trinidad and Tobago dollars)

22. Expected Credit Losses (continued)

The closing balance of the of the trade receivables loss allowance at 30th September 2022 reconciles with the trade receivables loss allowance opening balance as follows:

	30 Sep 2022 \$	30 Sep 2021 \$
Loss allowance at start of year	2,875,968	2,721,085
Loss allowance used in the year	(188,699)	(1,604)
Loss allowance recognised in the year	612,148	156,487
Loss allowance at end of year	<u>3,299,417</u>	<u>2,875,968</u>

23. Financial instruments by category

The accounting policies for financial instruments have been applied to the line items below:

	30 Sep 2022 \$	30 Sep 2021 \$
Financial assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	137,887,523	140,457,781
Trade receivables and loans (Note 8)	23,242,615	12,950,583
	<u>161,130,138</u>	<u>153,408,364</u>
Other financial liabilities		
Payables held at amortised cost	4,823,332	4,486,284
	<u>4,823,332</u>	<u>4,486,284</u>

24. Contingent liabilities and assets, commitments

Legal proceedings

The Authority is both plaintiff and defendant to several legal suits and proceedings. However, the disposition of these matters is not likely to have a materially adverse effect on its financial condition or results of operation.

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

For the year ended 30th September 2022 (Expressed in Trinidad and Tobago dollars)

25. Events after the reporting date

Russian/Ukraine conflict

On 24th February 2022, there was a further escalation of an ongoing Russo-Ukrainian geopolitical conflict which culminated in the invasion of and declaration of war on Ukraine. The Authority does not engage in any activity in either territory, nor have any affiliation or relationship with Russian or Ukrainian based entities. Nonetheless, ongoing fighting has triggered adverse financial and economic consequences, particularly with regard to the sanctions imposed on Russia's economy which has triggered sharp rises in energy costs and energy security issues and price volatilities for several commodity-based products. With peace negotiations aimed at cessation of the war proving futile thus far, the impact of this ongoing geopolitical conflict on the global economy is uncertain. The Authority continues to monitor and navigate the potential effects which the situation could impose on its business operations and its financial condition.

No other significant events occurred after the reporting date to affect the financial performance, position or changes therein for the reporting year presented in these annual financial statements.



Telecommunications Authority
of Trinidad & Tobago

**Telecommunications Authority
of Trinidad and Tobago**

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