

Zain Bahrain joins MEETS regional cable system to boost business offerings

- Introduction of MEETS supports the Kingdom of Bahrain's vision as a major hub for ICT and data movement in the MENA region***
- Catering for increased demand for high-speed and reliable connectivity solutions of business customers***

Bahrain, 6 October, 2018: In a major regional telecommunication development for the Kingdom of Bahrain, Zain Bahrain announces the introduction of the 'Middle East – Europe Terrestrial System' (MEETS), an international cable system that provides state-of-the-art high bandwidth regional connectivity solutions.

By joining MEETS, Zain Bahrain will offer superior products to meet the increasing demand for high-speed and reliable connectivity throughout the Kingdom, particularly amongst the booming business sector.

MEETS is a partnership between a GCC-wide telecoms consortium, both conceived and co-promoted jointly by Zain – the MEETS landing party in Bahrain, du, Vodafone and Zajil, with the aim to significantly improve regional connectivity. It offers connectivity in the GCC region with a design capacity in excess of 2.3 Tbps.

Zain Bahrain General Manager, Mr. Mohammed Zainalabedin said, *"The introduction of MEETS supports the Kingdom of Bahrain's vision towards positioning Bahrain as a major hub for ICT and data movement in the MENA region. It also supports Zain Bahrain's strategic plans to develop a world-class infrastructure locally and globally to cater for the growing demand of high-speed and low-latency connectivity solutions for our Enterprise customers in Bahrain. Providing a superior internet experience will help Zain Bahrain retain and attract new customers, while complementing our cutting-edge mobile data expansion strategy and supporting the roll-out of dynamic Enterprise services to our corporate clients."*

MEETS is built on an Optical Ground Wire over a 1,400km regional high-tension electricity network, reducing the risk of cable cuts and enhancing the availability normally associated with submarine cables. The MEETS system is a state-of-the-art, upgradeable optical transport network capable of sustaining the growing bandwidth demand in the region. The system is managed by a 24/7 Network Operating Centre.

MEETS caters to regional and international ICT companies, meeting their wholesale capacity needs, while providing a connection to new areas and end customers, especially enterprises of all sizes.

ENDS

About Zain Bahrain

Zain Bahrain, a telecommunications industry innovator focused on enhancing customer experience, was awarded a mobile telecom license on 22 April 2003 and commenced commercial operations on 28 December 2003. The operation promptly placed Bahrain on the world telecom map through the introduction of many mobile technology innovations that continue to this day with nationwide high-speed 4G LTE services being offered through the Kingdom's most advanced mobile network. Zain Bahrain, listed on the Bahrain Bourse (Ticker: ZAINBH), is part of Zain Group, a leading telecommunications operator across the Middle East and Africa, which provides mobile voice and data services to over 46.9 million active customers commencing 31 March 2018. With a commercial presence in eight countries, Zain operates in Kuwait, Bahrain, Iraq, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Sudan and South Sudan. In Lebanon, the Group manages 'touch' on behalf of the government. In Morocco, Zain has a 15.5% stake in 'INWI', through a joint venture. For more information, please email info@bh.zain.com or visit: www.bh.zain.com