

# Hormuud Telecom Offers Seamless Data Delivery With Deployment of Somalia Cable Landing Station



A Vertiv Case Study



## Background

The early '90s was the start of a digital transformation that accelerated swiftly all over the world, connecting nations and bringing people closer. The rise of the internet altered human history, resulting in wide-spread use of technology, machines, and digital application like artificial intelligence (AI) in almost all walks of life.

The global pandemic further super-charged this wave of digitalization, creating an urgency around the proliferation of the internet and other technologies to ensure economic resilience. In a diverse continent like Africa, an estimated 900 million people still remain unconnected to the internet. However, the continent is swiftly making progress and opening doors to new technological advancements and opportunities with the East-African country of Somalia emerging as a frontrunner despite the challenging environment for digital infrastructure.

Today, Somalia offers some of the most technologically advanced and competitively priced telecommunications and internet services in the world, overcoming the traditional barriers to become a leading economy in the mobile-banking industry. In a bid to accelerate its digital transformation, the country is identifying economic and infrastructure challenges such as the lack of undersea cable connections. New initiatives, such as [Facebook-backed 2Africa](#), are being planned to ensure cable landing stations that improve connectivity and bring more Somalis online.

Hormuud Telecom's project with Vertiv to install an undersea cable landing station (CLS) in Somalia aims to bring the country to the forefront of technological breakthroughs that fuel further growth. The collaboration capitalizes on Vertiv's experience providing infrastructure for cable landing stations and its rapidly deployable solutions, along with Hormuud Telecom's extensive reach across Somalia.



**Challenge:** Deploy cable landing station in Somalia with solutions that would deliver the needed levels of efficiency, availability and flexibility

### Solution:

- Vertiv™ NetSure™ 7100 Series DC power system
- Vertiv™ Liebert® PDX thermal management systems
- Project services including installation supervision and commissioning

### Results:

- Improved connectivity for Somalia that supports digital transformation and fuels growth

## Challenge

Somalia's infrastructure development in the telecoms sector has faced many ups and downs in the past from ongoing political and socioeconomic turmoil. The pandemic further impelled the need for economic resilience, cyber technologies, and advanced solutions that can substantially mitigate the pandemic's adverse effects on the country. The need to improve and enhance connectivity in Somalia, as well as put the country on the global stage of digital reformation is now more apparent than ever.

The limited undersea cable connections held back the development of Somalia's internet infrastructure for decades. When cables began to land in the country, underdeveloped supply-chain networks meant they remained virtually stranded on the coastline, unable to provide the services necessary to push internet access inland. And proximity to the Indian Ocean brings its own challenges. These cables are required to cross the ocean floor and are more susceptible to breakage and damage due to the water's salinity quotient. Thus, it is imperative that the right combination of technological know-how and experience is applied at these stations.

The Hormuud Telecom team specifically needed pre-sales support and resources to help with the cable landing station design. In fact, the region lacked skilled and reliable vendors, which was especially challenging during the installation and commissioning phases.

Other challenging project requirements include ensuring IT energy efficiency that supports low operational expenditure (OPEX), high availability, and high flexibility.

## Solution

Hormuud Telecom's mission is to introduce innovative and quality connectivity solutions in Somalia through the activation of a new open access CLS, thus envisioning a connected nation where every Somali citizen has access to the internet. The CLS project will be spearheaded by Hormuud Telecom and powered by Vertiv technology in partnership with Pure Earth International, a Vertiv-authorized distributor across the horn of Africa.

Founded in 2002, Hormuud Telecom has become one of the largest corporations in Somalia and has grown in line with the huge demand for wholesale and enterprise connectivity and data centre services across Somalia.

Through its partnerships with customers, the provider is bridging the digital divide on the continent by increasing broadband penetration through more fibre builds, data centre investments, and satellite partnerships.

As part of this visionary CLS project aimed at strengthening Somalia's infrastructure, Hormuud Telecom chose Vertiv as its primary vendor. The telco charged the team with delivering a critical facility design and a turnkey solution ranging from DC power and power management systems to thermal management systems and project services.

Vertiv solutions related to this project include:

- [Vertiv™ NetSure™ 7100 Series DC power system](#)
- [Vertiv™ Liebert® PDX](#) thermal management systems
- [Project services](#) including installation supervision and commissioning

Additionally, Vertiv has invested in building a million-dollar hub in Morocco to support increased connectivity for African nations and to meet the escalating demand for capacity. Furthermore, Vertiv plans on expanding operations throughout Africa with its newly launched legal branches in Kenya, as well as two new locations across the continent.

## Results

Hormuud Telecom's CLS will accelerate the proliferation of broadband and trigger digital transformation, thus improving connectivity in and around Somalia. It will accommodate various submarine cables, in turn streamlining the process of establishing cross-connections to local and global partners making it easier, quicker, and more efficient for all.

The project also aims to prompt subsequent benefits, such as job creation, increased productivity, access to knowledge, and improved economic opportunities for the region's inhabitants. Having an energy efficient cooling solution and precise thermal management, the site will deliver uninterrupted clean power that is essential for maximum availability.

Hormuud Telecom anticipates significant expansion in the network capacity of multiple submarine cables for Somalia in the near future, and working through Vertiv, will enable upcoming submarine cable consortium partners to connect at the CLS site.

***Go online to learn more about Vertiv solutions for cable landing stations.***

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