



Media Release

9 February 2016

JT and 4G Network Partner sign-off

The delivery of JT's Channel Island-wide 4G mobile network reached conclusion today with the official handover of the system to JT by its strategic partner and leading global provider of telecommunications equipment and network solutions, ZTE.

Senior representatives from ZTE joined JT's team and Assistant Treasury and Resources Minister, Connétable John Refault in Jersey at a formal ceremony to declare the installation and rigorous 10 month testing phase complete; with the network management being passed in its entirety to JT's mobile team. Held during Chinese New Year the event took on an Eastern theme bringing both parties and cultures together to celebrate their successful collaboration in delivering the brand new £12 million Advanced LTE 4G mobile network.

Graeme Millar, JT's CEO said: "I'm pleased to announce that our hard work alongside partner ZTE over the last two years to deliver this ambitious and future-proof 4G network has reached this final milestone and that the new 4G mobile network they helped us to deliver here in the Channel Islands is now completely under our management. I'd like to thank the team at ZTE for their professionalism throughout ensuring JT delivered an enviable network ahead of the market, on schedule and on budget. Our long-term partnership with ZTE has brought valuable returns for our customers and by offering a high performance 4G mobile network we believe will benefit Jersey long into the future."

ZTE's, Kenneth Cao, said: "It's a pleasure to be in Jersey to witness the conclusion of this very important 4G network project with JT. Under ZTE's M-ICT strategy (Mobile Internet of Everything), ZTE is committed to its mission to drive innovations in telecommunications, enterprise computing and consumer devices to help our customers adapt and thrive in the era of intelligent, always-on connectivity. The Channel Islands are a unique location, and we are glad to partner with JT to deliver a high quality network and provide the leading technology to the local community. With mutual respect, I am glad to see the 'One Team' spirit is deeply rooted in both ZTE and JT team. It enables us to face the challenges and find the best practical solutions together."

JT's 4G network was launched in Jersey in February 2015 and Guernsey in June 2015. In Guernsey this involved building from scratch and in Jersey replacing all existing mobile equipment. Heading up the project from JT was JT's Chief Operations and Technology Officer, Dave Newbold.

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He said: “We have been really impressed with the performance of the new network which has been independently tested for quality and speed across the Channel Islands, with excellent results proving superiority of our network in the market. ZTE’s expertise and guidance every step of the way instilled confidence in our team to carry out a seamless installation and now we have total control we have the in-house skills and knowledge for long-term management of it. We’re committed to investing in technology to provide islanders with the most advanced networks and infrastructure and 4G alongside our fibre broadband network delivers the very best in seamless connectivity available anywhere in the world. We’ve had excellent feedback from all our customers, specifically a number of businesses which have seen tangible results by utilising the faster and more reliable network to mobilise their workforce.”

Tim Knights heads up JT’s mobile division and explains how traffic and customer data usage has increased far in excess of the projected usage.

He said: “With Smartphone penetration across the islands at a higher level than most digitally advanced countries, it’s no surprise that our 4G network, that offers a 10 times faster connection, has seen increased traffic in response to the vast appetite for data amongst islanders. To put this in perspective, our 4G network arrived just in time for some major events in Jersey last year and supported 11,000 different devices during the XVI Natwest Island Games in July to download 2.1 Terrabytes (equivalent to 1,024,000 photo uploads or 17,000 hours of music). It was also our 4G network that enabled the live results of the Pepsi ICC Europe Division 1, hosted in Jersey in May, to be broadcast live around the world to thousands of fans and for Jersey Live party-goers to keep connected over the two-day event. Overall the benefits of the new network have already been experienced across our community and as new technology emerges and Smartphone penetration heads closer to 100% we are confident in our network that has the capability to support the next generation of mobile, 5G.”

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