

Wireless Access Providers' Association 2008 Fact Sheet



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Introduction

The Wireless Access Providers' Association (**WAPA**) is an association that strives to ensure the sustainability of the **Wireless Access** services industry. We represent our members who are **Wireless Network Access Providers, WISPs** and **Equipment Vendors**.

Wireless in South Africa

The reality is that the use of licence-exempt frequency for commercial service provision is set to increase with the implementation of the **ECA**. Those who want to play in the **ECNS** space will have to deal with a scarcity of licensed frequency as well as **ICASA's** pre-qualification criteria, leading to greater demand in licence-exempt bands.

There are also indications that **ICASA** will raise power output limitations in some of the licence-exempt bands facilitating commercial usage. It is clear from the experience of other countries that the majority of innovation and spectral efficiency occurs in the licence exempt bands and that they have a major part to play in rural and peri-urban service provision.

How will this increased usage be managed and co-ordinated given that **ICASA** does not protect licence-exempt frequency users? **WAPA** is a self-regulatory body striving to provide a framework for such management and co-ordination.



WAPA Benefits

- Regulatory Advice
- Code of Conduct
- Press and Media exposure
- Forum for knowledge sharing
- Consumer complaints process

About WAPA

The **Wireless Access Providers' Association (WAPA)**, established in **2006**, is a non-profit industry representative body acting as a collective voice for independent wireless operators in **South Africa**. **WAPA's** membership is differentiated from other wireless providers by their focus on using open standard wireless technologies.

WAPA's primary objective is to ensure the sustainability of the wireless access services market. **WAPA** is positioned to be an interface between the government regulator, network providers, service providers and consumers. **WAPA** facilitates self-regulation of the outdoor fixed wireless and indoor nomadic wireless (**Wifi**) industries.

WAPA Stats

Industry snapshot, November 2007:

- Respondents: **23 WAPA members**
- Subscribers: **8201, 80% growth**, estimated split: **40%** consumer market, **60%** business market
- Annual Revenue: **R53m, 26% growth**
- Staff Employed: **267, 41% growth**
- Schools and social responsibility projects: **192, 42% growth**

WAPA & ISPA

Many **WAPA** members are also members of the **ISPA**. There is value in belonging to both organisations. **WAPA's** focus is on wireless infrastructure.

Conclusion

WAPA doesn't profess to have answers to all questions relating to wireless access provision in **South Africa**, but it is a collection of many of the major players in the industry who share a collective goal, of ensuring sustainable business opportunities in Wireless Access, particularly in un-licensed bands.

Further information

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