

The Wireless Access Providers Association

An Industry Representative Body for the wireless access infrastructure service provider

Presented by: David Jarvis, Chairperson



BREAKING NEWS !!!

- ICASA has officially confirmed that VANS will be converted into Electronic Communications Network Service Licence – Class or individual
 - WAPA and ISPA pressure
- ICASA is processing VANS again and a backlog of licences are about to be signed.



WAPA Mission and Vision

- To ensure sustainability in the wireless access service industry including:
 - WISP's
 - Equipment vendors
 - Access Network providers and operators.
- To represent the interests of the Industry to the regulator, other licence-holders and the public.
- To provide a vehicle for active co-operation and dispute resolution within the industry.
- To actively lobby for changes to the manner in which unlicensed band usage is currently regulated

WAPA - Who and Why?



Who are our members?

- Largely operators using un-licensed spectrum
- Equipment vendors to these operators.
- New entrants into the market.

Why do they need WAPA?

- Historically antagonistic ICASA + aggressive licencees
- Sustainable use of un-licensed spectrum
- Self-regulation is the only viable avenue to proper legal recognition of the industry
- Collaboration between operators – interconnects and facilities sharing
- Consultation on best shared practices between operators



WAPA History

- May 2003 – First meeting of WINX (The Wireless Internet Exchange)
- June 2003 – Support from UNICT Taskforce, W2I, UNDP, ITU and FCC.
- Feb 2005 – Ministerial de-regulation of VANS
- January 2006 - WISPA presented to ICASA councilors.
- September 2006 - WAPA presented to Parliament during a visit to Knysna as self-regulation body.



WAPA History Continued....

- November 2006 – WAPA formed with 15 WISP's and 1 equipment vendor as founding members
- December 2006 - WAPA formally engages the regulator in Western Cape and at Council level.
- January 2006 - WAPA presents the Code of Conduct to ICASA Council and enforcement management.
- February 2007 – WAPA submits formal request for recognition by ICASA council.
- March 2007 – WAPA grows to 29 members
- March 16th 2007 - WAPA AGM

Initial Membership Census

- Industry snapshot as at October 2006
 - Subscribers 4 554
 - Annual Turnover R42M
 - Employment - 190
 - Schools connected 109 (e-rate of 50% or free)
 - Clinics and Libraries - 26
- *Note: This is only in the Western Cape, and only with the initial 15 Members of WAPA*



Membership Census – Current Estimate

- Industry snapshot as at March 2006
 - Subscribers 30 000+
 - Annual Turnover > R150M
 - Employment > 600
 - Schools connected > 250 (e-rate of 50% or free)
 - Clinics and Libraries > 90
- *Note: Projections based on limited data available to WAPA until more detailed Census results are received.*



WAPA Structure

- Non profit organization – registering under NPO Act
- Membership structure:
 - Full Members are all licenced telecommunications service providers. (VANS, PTN, USAL, etc)
 - Associate Members include equipment vendors.
 - Probationary members are members that have applied for telecommunications licencing but have not yet received it.
- An executive is elected from within the membership.
- An enforcement committee is appointed by the executive to evaluate complaints and enforce decisions.



WAPA Constitution and conduct.

- All members are required to sign and abide by the WAPA Constitution and Code of Conduct.
- Issues that cannot be resolved internally via the Code of Conduct will be escalated to the ICASA Complaints Commission.
- Only full members have voting rights.
- Representation on executive committee's is in the members personal capacity.



Code of conduct – Objectives

- Initial objectives:
 - Minimize potential for interference
 - Facilitate access to information about other operators for:
 - » Interference mitigation discussions
 - » Interaction with the regulator
 - » Expedite WAPA inspection process
- Increase the profile and respectability of operators to:
 - The Public at large
 - The Regulator
 - Other Licenced operators.



WAPA Code of conduct.

- Members must be licenced. (VANS, PTN, USAL etc.)
- Strict adherence to Type-approval procedures and requirements
 - No Amplifiers,
 - Type Approval stickers on all radios.
- High Site conduct
 - Notices of identification and WAPA membership on all high sites
 - Power backup systems
 - High gain omni ban.



Code of conduct Cont.

- Safety management on High sites:
 - Approved rope access gear and training
 - Ban on single technician servicing of high sites.
- Equipment Vendors
 - WAPA members can only buy from WAPA registered Vendors
 - » Financial incentive for vendors to comply
 - » Facilitate control of type-approved devices.
 - Must be ICASA registered suppliers
- Spectrum
 - Strictly limited to within unlicensed bands.



Code of conduct Cont.

- Consumer protection
 - Transparency in service offerings:
 - » Equipment ownership
 - » Embedded leasing
 - » Hardware return policies
 - » Suspension procedures
 - Protect confidentiality of consumers and their information
 - Service levels
 - » At least office hours support preferably 24/7
 - » Terms and Conditions and AUP contracts with customers
 - » Other general conditions like spam, protection of minors etc.

Code of conduct Cont.

- Complaints and Disciplinary procedure.
 - Extensive dependence on peer reporting system
 - Licenced operators, consumers and ICASA can lodge complaints.
 - Structured resolution process
 - Fines, suspension for non-compliance
 - Escalation to ICASA Complaints and Compliance Commission.
 - ICASA keen to help WAPA enforce in this sector.



Thank You

Contact info.....

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Q & A ?