

Vodacom commercially available NB-IoT network operational

Earlier this year, Vodacom opened a laboratory to facilitate the development of propositions and applications relating to Narrowband IoT (NB-IoT) technology. Its first commercially available NB-IoT network is now operational in Gauteng.



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The commercial rollout of NB-IoT is expected to accelerate IoT adoption rates, with Vodacom currently averaging 55,000 new IoT connections per month.



New Vodacom narrowband IoT lab in Midrand

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Developers, partners and customers are now able to build and launch Low Power Wide Area (LPWA) solutions based on Vodacom's NB-IoT eco-system in South Africa. LPWA describes a category of wireless communication technologies designed to support IoT deployments and is seen as a catalyst for the next wave of connected "things" as these networks can communicate with devices where radio infiltration has not previously been possible.

“NB-IoT is one of a number of different technologies that have been developed to fulfil LPWA requirements and is expected to dominate this space over time as the eco-system of devices matures.”

Deon Liebenberg, managing executive for the internet of things at Vodacom, says: “Vodacom is the first South African mobile network provider to announce the commercial availability of NB-IoT. We are ready to onboard customers, partners and developers who are in a position to deploy NB-IoT projects. We are proud that commercial NB-IoT will be carried for the first time on South Africa's best network.”

The commercial rollout of NB-IoT is expected to bring many advantages for customers, including licensed spectrum, enhanced sim security and scalability.

The recent [Vodafone IoT Barometer Report](#) indicates that South Africans are confident that IoT will improve their business

outcomes in future.

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