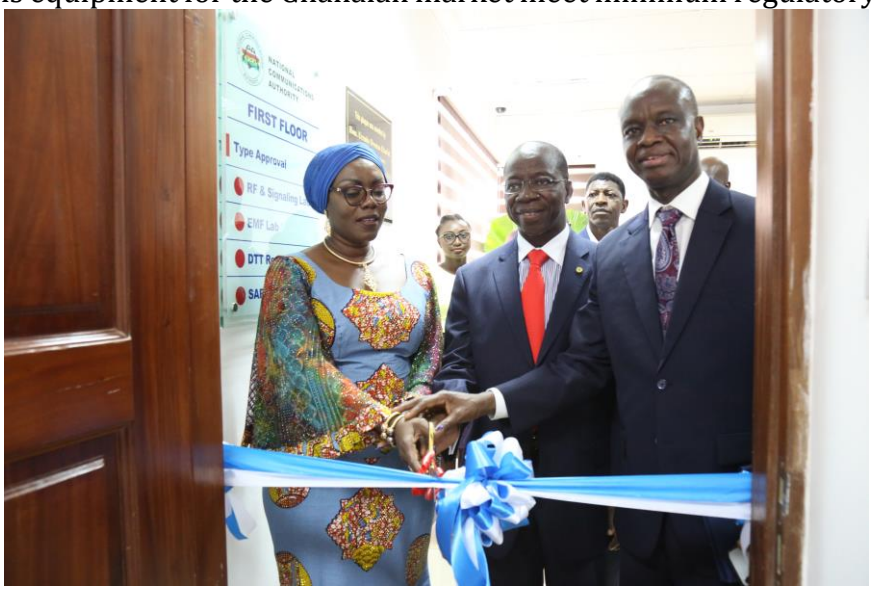
National Communications Authority

- Press Release

Communication Minister Commissions NCA Type Approval Laboratory in Accra

- *Lab consists of 4 arms – SAR, EMF, DTT and RF*
- *First of its kind in West Africa*
- *Will serve as training facility for the sub-region and beyond*

Accra, 19th July, 2018 – The Minister of Communications, Hon. Ursula Owusu-Ekuful has commissioned a state of the art Type Approval laboratory for the National Communications Authority (NCA) in Accra. Type approval means the manufacturers and dealers of electronic communication equipment must have relevant documentation to ensure that electronic communications equipment for the Ghanaian market meet minimum regulatory requirements.



[The Minister cut the tape with Brahima Sanou of the ITU and Joe Anokye after unveiling a plaque]

The world class laboratory will be used to test Electronic Communication Equipment such as mobile phones, tablets, laptops, imported into the country to ensure that the equipment conforms to international standards. The laboratory would also address public health and safety concerns regarding emissions especially from telecommunication masts, strengthen the post-market surveillance activities of the NCA on unapproved devices and facilitate the availability of quality devices to the public.

[Staff of the SAR Lab demonstrating to dignitaries how it works]

The NCA Type Approval Testing Laboratories consists of four separate labs:

- The Specific Absorption Rate (SAR) Lab for measuring the amount of radiation absorbed by the body tissue when using a wireless electronic communication equipment such as mobile phones, tablets, wireless routers, walkie-talkie, lap-tops etc .
- The Radio Frequency and Signalling (RF Lab) for measuring the technical requirements necessary for implementing wireless protocols – such as WLAN, WCDMA, GSM and Bluetooth, and their hand-over issues.
- The Electromagnetic Field Strength (EMF) Lab for measuring the radiations from Telecommunications Base stations, Television and FM transmission sites.
- The Digital Terrestrial Television Testing Lab for testing the various requirements needed as Ghana gears up for a full DTT roll-out to enable Ghana migrate from analogue to digital television broadcasting.

[A demonstration in the RF and Signaling Lab]

At a brief commissioning ceremony attended by the Director of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT), Brahima Sanou and a host of ITU dignitaries, Hon. Ursula Owusu-Ekuful said she is delighted that the NCA has been quietly working to live up to its aspirations to be a world class regulator. She said the establishment of the lab, as the first within the sub-region, provides enormous opportunity for the advancement of telecommunication across the region and the continent, and to further protect consumers from the harmful effects of unsafe telecommunication equipment.

[Hon. Ursula Owusu-Ekuful addressing guests prior to the commissioning]

"Ghana will work closely with the ITU and its member states in the region to ensure that the lab becomes the hub for testing, training and capacity building. But this can only be achieved

with the active collaboration in the region/sub-region through the harmonization of standards and to develop Mutual Recognition Agreements aimed at facilitating trade", she added.

Director of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT), Brahima Sanou commended the government and the NCA for taking the lead in advancing telecommunication on the continent. He expressed the hope that the services of the lab will be opened to countries across Africa to assist in ensuring that the incidence of Africa being a dumping ground for equipment is drastically reduced.

[Brahima Sanou – Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau of ITU]

Director General of the NCA, Joe Anokye added that it is worthy to note that the activities of both ITU-T and ITU-D on Conformance and Interoperability (C&I) testing have generated growing interest in African countries and member states are interested in building capacities related to ITU C&I program around the three (3) key Pillars namely Conformity assessment, Capacity building and Assistance in the establishment of national/regional test centres.

[Mr. Joe Anokye welcoming guests]

According to Mr. Anokye, Ghana has taken a bold step towards the setting up of these state of the Art labs, not only for itself but to serve as hub for the African region in testing, training and capacity building in line with Regional Initiative 14 (RI4) – which is ***Strengthening human and institutional capacity building*** and thus addressing the above mentioned Pillars. He indicated that a proposal for the lab to be recognised as a testing hub for the region/sub-region will be submitted during the breakout sessions of the ongoing Regional Development Forum for consideration.

To determine whether an equipment had been type-approve, consumers and the general public must visit the Authority's website (www.nca.org.gh) to access the updated list of approved equipment and dealers.

Released by:

NCA Tower,
No. 6 Airport City, Accra.
Tel: (0)30 – 2776621/2771701 or 050-145-1522/3.
E-mail: info@nca.org.gh
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About NCA

The National Communications Authority, (NCA), was established by an Act of Parliament, Act 524 in December 1996, which has been repealed and replaced by the National Communications Authority Act, 2008 (Act 769). The Authority is the statutory body mandated to license and to regulate electronic communication activities and services in the country.