

## **Maroc Telecom declared the winner of the international tender offer for the acquisition of a 51% stake in SOTELMA, the incumbent Malian telecoms operator, for €275 million.**

Under the presidency of his Excellency Mr. Amadou Toumani Touré, President of the Republic of Mali, Mr. Abdeslam Ahizoune, Chairman of the Management Board of Maroc Telecom, and Ms. Diarra Mariam Flanté Diallo, Minister of Communications and New Technologies with responsibility for the privatization process and Mr. Sanoussi Touré, Minister of the Economy and Finance, signed a definitive transaction agreement on July 7, 2009 in the presence of his Excellency Mr. Modibo Sidibé, Prime Minister and head of the government of the Republic of Mali, and the members of the Malian government.

Commenting on the signing of the agreement, Mr. Ahizoune stated: “We are satisfied with the conclusion of this partnership between Maroc Telecom and the government of the Republic of Mali in connection with the privatization of SOTELMA. The company has a powerful brand image in Mali and offers considerable growth potential. Maroc Telecom will do everything necessary to make the company the preeminent telecoms operator in its region”.

SOTELMA generated revenues of €112 million in 2007. At end-December 2008, it had over 500,000 active mobile subscribers and over 83,000 fixed-line subscribers (Source: ITU). Growth prospects for the Malian market are particularly promising, with an estimated mobile penetration rate of 26% and a fixed-line penetration rate of 0.6% at end-2008.

For reference, Maroc Telecom owns majority stakes in the Mauritanian incumbent operator, Mauritel (since April 2001), in ONATEL of Burkina Faso (since December 2006) and in Gabon Telecom (since February 2007).

*A full-service telecommunications operator, Maroc Telecom is the domestic market leader in all its business activities: Fixed-line, Mobile and Internet. Maroc Telecom was listed on the Casablanca and Paris stock exchanges in December 2004 and its main shareholders are Vivendi (53%) and the Kingdom of Morocco (30%).*

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