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DragonWave to support Nigeria's wireless wave
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DragonWave Inc. ([TSX:DWI](#)) has won a deal to install its wireless Ethernet technology in Nigeria, the second local company in as many weeks to deploy a wireless communications solution in the growing African country.

Ottawa-based DragonWave, which makes high-capacity wireless native Ethernet backhaul solutions for mobile and access networks, said ECAS Telecommunications & Systems Ltd. has chosen DragonWave's Horizon Compact for backhaul of Nigeria's new WiMAX and next-generation Internet services.

The news follows one on Jan. 20 in which local competitor [EION Wireless announced several deals with Nigerian banks for its wireless broadband point-to-point systems](#), through its Lagos-based partner DCC.

"With a long track record with the country's leading telecommunications companies, ECAS provides us with a very powerful entree into the booming Nigerian market and extends our momentum in the EMEA (Europe, Middle East and Africa) region," said DragonWave CEO Peter Allen in a statement. "ECAS has distinguished itself in Nigeria by consistently availing its customers to the latest advanced technologies, so we are very proud that the Horizon Compact is ECAS's choice for native Ethernet backhaul."

Low-power wireless technology is in increasing demand in Nigeria, where the electricity is frequently provided by generators and is highly unstable, ECAS said.

The deal gives DragonWave deeper access into a market recently identified by [Wireless Federation as Africa's largest mobile market](#), with 44 million subscribers in 2008 that is projected to grow to as much as 70.8 million in 2010. Wireless penetration in the country is just over 30 per cent, indicating strong potential for growth in deployments.

DragonWave's system will be used to support the provision of WiMAX, 3.5G, Evolution Data Only (EVDO) and Long-Term Evolution (LTE) wireless services in Nigeria.

