

NEWTEC STATEMENT ON THE FINDINGS OF THE INTERNATIONAL FACT-FINDING MISSION ON MYANMAR

SINT-NIKLAAS, Belgium, 6 August 2019 – Newtec’s mission is to connect the unconnected and to improve the socio-economic conditions of under-developed and developing countries through the use of satellite communications technology which connects people everywhere, regardless of their location.

Thanks to satellite communications, people all over the world, especially in very remote communities, can be connected to the Internet, allowing them to have a window into the world (international news, entertainment, etc) and to stay connected to essential services for education and healthcare (e-learning, e-health, etc).

The “opening up” of the country of Myanmar, first initiated in 2011 with a set of transformative economic and political reforms, was intended to give the rest of the world hope that this development would lead to the advancement of the country’s democratic institutions.

When the Myanmar telco market was opened up in 2014, it was seen as a reflection of greater economic openness and a move towards democracy by giving people access to communications tools. The liberalization of the telecommunications sector has vastly increased both mobile and Internet penetration. Citizens are able to communicate through satellite, using their medium of choice, whether that is a mobile device or a community ICT hub.

Mobile and Internet coverage in the country has leap-frogged from less than 20 percent and 10 percent respectively, in 2014, to 60 percent and 25 percent today, allowing millions of people in Myanmar to access information online through 3G and even some 4G covered areas, and make calls at affordable prices for the first time.

Newtec’s technology was selected for the development of 4G networks in Myanmar by one of our customers, ComCom. Newtec was not directly approached by Mytel as also stated in this press release:

<https://www.newtec.eu/article/release/newtec-empowers-myanmar-newest-mobile-operator>

In line with what has been brought to light with regards to Mytel (Myanmar’s fourth largest telecommunications network service provider and an MEC telecommunications joint venture) in the Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on Myanmar, we will follow the recommendations by the UN and stop commercial ties with Mytel linked to the MEC through its corporate structure. Newtec will cease any future requests by ComCom for the use of its products and services in the Mytel network.

Newtec is in complete agreement with the UN’s recommendation that: “Removing the Tatmadaw from Myanmar’s economy entails two parallel approaches. In addition to isolating the Tatmadaw financially, we have to promote economic ties with non-Tatmadaw companies and businesses in Myanmar.”

Above all, Newtec wants to be absolutely clear that we will never knowingly sell to any organization or company linked to the Tatmadaw’s campaign of violence across Rakhine state and the atrocities committed against the Rohingya.

- ENDS -

Your Contact

Newtec

Helen Jameson

PR Manager

+44 (0)787 8432 940

hjam@newtec.eu

Els Baele

Marketing Communications Director

+32 (0)3 780 6500

eba@newtec.eu

About Newtec

Newtec, www.newtec.eu, is specialized in designing, developing and manufacturing equipment and technologies for satellite communications. As a pioneer in the industry, Newtec is dedicated to creating new possibilities for the broadcast, consumer and enterprise VSAT, government, cellular backhaul and trunking and mobility, offshore and maritime markets. Our products and technologies can be applied in a wide range of single and multiservice applications from DTH broadcasting, video contribution and distribution and disaster recovery and backbones for cellular backhauling, to small and medium enterprises, SCADA and oil and gas networks, aircrafts and vessels.

Since 1985, our dedicated team of specialists has set industry standards with the most efficient, scalable and economical technology solutions. New challenges and customer needs offer opportunities to explore new boundaries. This empowers us to work even harder, helping customers to perform their best so that, together, we can make the world a safer, more informed and connected place. As a result, more than 3 billion people watch TV every day thanks to Newtec technology.

Newtec is a European company headquartered in Sint-Niklaas, Belgium. Through additional commercial offices in Dubai (UAE), Singapore, Beijing (China), Sao Paulo (Brazil) and Stamford, CT (USA) as well as an extensive network of over 100 certified partners, Newtec can meet customer's needs worldwide.