

THE PROJECT HERALD

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**THIS WEEK, VOL. 2: NIGCOMSAT-2A SATELLITE
CONTRACT • AFRICA'S DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE •
SOUTH AFRICA GREEN HYDROGEN PROJECTS • PHELAN
GREEN E-SAF PROJECT • KENYA INFRASTRUCTURE
FINANCING**



DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE & SPACE

NigComSat-2A Contract Signed as Nigeria Moves to Expand Africa's Digital Connectivity

Abuja, Nigeria — September 14, 2026

Nigeria has moved forward with a major satellite communications project after government-owned Nigerian Communications Satellite Limited (NIGCOMSAT) signed a contract with Thales Alenia Space for the development of NigComSat-2A, a new

geostationary telecommunications satellite.

The contract, announced on September 14, places Thales Alenia Space, a joint venture between Thales and Leonardo, in charge of developing the satellite. NigComSat-2A is designed to strengthen Nigeria's satellite communications capacity while expanding digital connectivity across African markets.

The satellite will provide communications services including television broadcasting, broadband internet access and digital applications such as voice calls and streaming. Its coverage is expected to extend from West and Central Africa to Southern Africa, allowing NIGCOMSAT to serve markets beyond Nigeria.

According to Thales Alenia Space, the satellite will have a launch mass of nearly four tonnes and an expected operational in-orbit service life of more than 15 years. It will be based on the company's Spacebus B2 platform.

Closing the Connectivity Gap

The project is also positioned as an infrastructure response to connectivity gaps in areas where terrestrial telecommunications networks remain difficult or expensive to deploy. NIGCOMSAT said the satellite is intended to improve access to broadband and other digital services for households, businesses, public institutions and industries.

NIGCOMSAT currently operates Nigeria's geostationary satellite infrastructure, including NigComSat-1R, which was launched in 2011. The company provides satellite services including transponder leasing, broadband connectivity and satellite broadcasting.

For Nigeria, the new satellite represents an expansion of its existing space and communications infrastructure. For the wider African market, it creates another satellite-based connectivity platform at a time when demand for reliable digital infrastructure continues to grow.

PROJECT HERALD INTELLIGENCE

Project:	NigComSat-2A
Country:	Nigeria
Sector:	Satellite Communications / Digital Infrastructure
Developer:	Thales Alenia Space
Client:	NIGCOMSAT Ltd

Status: Contract signed / Development phase

Coverage: West, Central & Southern Africa

Expected Service Life: More than 15 years

***Commercial Signal:** Satellite manufacturing, launch, ground infrastructure, connectivity services and downstream digital applications could form part of the wider value chain surrounding the project.*

Africa's Digital Infrastructure Agenda Gains Momentum as Finance and Technology Investment Expand

Africa — September 16, 2026

Africa's digital infrastructure investment agenda received fresh momentum this week as governments, development institutions and private investors increased their focus on connectivity, artificial intelligence infrastructure and digital networks.

At the Korea-Africa Economic Cooperation Ministerial Conference in Seoul, African governments and Korean partners placed artificial intelligence and digital infrastructure at the centre of discussions around future economic cooperation. The African Development Bank said the cooperation agenda is increasingly focused on expanding AI infrastructure, deploying AI applications across industries and developing the skills required to support Africa's digital transformation.

The developments come as the continent continues to face a substantial infrastructure financing requirement. Digital infrastructure, including fibre networks, data centres, cloud infrastructure and other communications systems, is increasingly being treated as an essential component of broader economic infrastructure.

A \$155 Million Signal

A separate development on September 16 further demonstrated the growing scale of international capital entering Africa's digital infrastructure market. The U.S. International Development Finance Corporation announced an investment of up to \$155 million in WIOCC, an African digital infrastructure provider. The investment is intended to support the expansion of digital infrastructure, including networks that underpin data-intensive services and artificial intelligence applications.

The financing illustrates the increasing strategic importance attached to Africa's digital networks by international development and investment institutions.

New Financing Structures

Discussions around digital infrastructure financing are also broadening beyond conventional project finance. Global Finance reported on September 16 that African markets are increasingly examining digital bonds and other financing structures as part of efforts to address the continent's wider infrastructure financing gap.

The convergence of satellite connectivity, fibre networks, data centres, AI infrastructure and new financing mechanisms is creating a broader digital infrastructure investment landscape across African markets.

For governments, the challenge remains translating these commitments into bankable projects and commercially sustainable infrastructure. For investors and technology companies, the expansion of digital infrastructure creates opportunities across construction, equipment supply, connectivity, data services, cloud infrastructure and technology deployment.

PROJECT HERALD INTELLIGENCE

Sector:	Digital Infrastructure / Technology / AI
Markets:	Africa
Key Developments:	Korea-Africa digital cooperation; WIOCC investment
Capital Signal:	Up to \$155 million DFC investment in WIOCC
Infrastructure Areas:	Fibre, data centres, satellite, AI & digital services

***Commercial Signal:** Africa's digital infrastructure market is increasingly attracting development finance, strategic international capital and technology partnerships.*

ENERGY TRANSITION

South Africa Unveils Six Priority Green Hydrogen Projects as Investment Pipeline Takes Shape

Cape Town, South Africa — September 15, 2026

South Africa has unveiled the first wave of six priority green hydrogen and Power-to-X projects, creating a defined project pipeline for investors, financiers, technology providers and potential offtakers.

The projects were announced during the 2026 Africa Green Hydrogen Summit in Cape Town as part of the country's national green hydrogen programme. The South African government also launched its first Green Hydrogen Deal Book, designed to provide investors and development partners with a structured view of projects emerging across the country's hydrogen economy.

The six projects cover different parts of the green hydrogen value chain, including sustainable fuels, industrial decarbonisation and green manufacturing. Among the projects is a 200 MW electro-sustainable aviation fuel project, while another project led by Hive Energy has a planned capacity of approximately 1.2 GW.

The government's objective is to move projects beyond conceptual development and create a pipeline that can attract commercial capital and establish new industrial value chains.

Building a Commercial Framework

The Deal Book is intended to connect project developers with investors, financiers, technology partners and offtakers. This creates a commercial framework around the projects rather than treating green hydrogen solely as a policy or energy-transition programme.

The announcement also comes as South Africa seeks to use its renewable energy resources, industrial base and export infrastructure to develop new low-carbon industries. The first-wave projects are part of the country's broader Green Hydrogen Commercialisation Strategy and are being developed through the green hydrogen programme associated with the Just Energy Transition Investment Plan.

The project pipeline could create demand across renewable power generation, electrolyzers, engineering and construction, storage, transport, sustainable fuels, industrial equipment and export infrastructure.

PROJECT HERALD INTELLIGENCE

Country:	South Africa
Sector:	Green Hydrogen / Power-to-X
Projects Announced:	6 priority projects
Programme:	National Green Hydrogen Programme
Key Applications:	Sustainable aviation fuel, industrial decarbonisation
Investment Platform:	Green Hydrogen Deal Book

***Commercial Signal:** The Deal Book provides a structured pipeline for investors, financiers, technology companies and potential offtakers seeking opportunities within South Africa's emerging hydrogen economy.*

Phelan Green Reaches Final Investment Decision on \$735 Million South African e-SAF Project

Saldanha Bay, South Africa — September 16, 2026

Phelan Green Group has reached a major financing milestone for its electro-sustainable aviation fuel project at Saldanha Bay, South Africa, with its family board approving the first phase of an investment valued at approximately R12 billion.

The project has reached Final Investment Decision (FID), making it the first of the six projects in South Africa's initial green hydrogen development wave to reach this stage. Phelan Green has committed the equity required to move the project toward construction, with construction targeted to begin in the first quarter of 2027.

The first phase has an overall investment requirement of approximately R12 billion, within a broader project investment estimated at around R47 billion. The company has committed approximately R2 billion in equity to support the first phase.

The project is being developed to produce electro-sustainable aviation fuel, or e-SAF, using the emerging green hydrogen value chain. Phelan Green has also secured an agreement for the future production from the facility, providing an important commercial component for the project as it moves from development toward construction.

From Policy to Execution

The development is significant within South Africa's wider green hydrogen programme because it demonstrates movement from policy and project identification into financing and execution. The Saldanha Bay location also places the project within an established industrial and port environment, potentially supporting future logistics and export activities.

The company is a privately owned Irish family business headquartered in Cape Town and develops renewable energy and sustainable fuel projects connected to the global energy transition. The project forms part of the six-project first wave announced under South Africa's national green hydrogen programme this week.

PROJECT HERALD INTELLIGENCE

Project:	Saldanha Bay e-SAF Project
Developer:	Phelan Green Group
Country:	South Africa
Sector:	Sustainable Aviation Fuel / Green Hydrogen
Status:	Final Investment Decision
Phase 1 Investment:	~R12 billion
Equity Commitment:	~R2 billion
Broader Project Investment:	~R47 billion
Construction Target:	Q1 2027

***Commercial Signal:** The project creates potential demand across renewable power, green hydrogen, engineering, equipment, sustainable fuels, logistics and aviation fuel supply chains.*

Kenya Turns to China Development Bank for Fresh Infrastructure Funding

Nairobi, Kenya — September 15, 2026

Kenya is seeking additional infrastructure financing from the China Development Bank (CDB) as the government looks for new sources of capital for projects spanning roads, water and digital connectivity.

Kenya's National Treasury has held discussions with the China Development Bank regarding potential financing for infrastructure development, according to reporting published on September 15. The discussions form part of Kenya's broader effort to secure financing for infrastructure projects at a time when governments across Africa are examining alternative funding sources for major capital programmes.

The projects under discussion include road infrastructure, water projects and connectivity initiatives, areas that require substantial long-term capital and can involve significant construction and equipment requirements.

A Familiar Financing Relationship

The discussions with CDB are also taking place against the background of Kenya's established relationship with Chinese infrastructure financing and construction companies. Kenya has previously relied on Chinese financing and contractors for major infrastructure developments, including road projects. Recent developments in western Kenya have also highlighted the role of Chinese-backed infrastructure in expanding road connectivity and supporting local commercial activity.

What Comes Next

For the Kenyan government, access to development-bank financing could provide another route for advancing infrastructure projects where conventional budget funding may be constrained. For contractors, engineering firms, equipment suppliers and other infrastructure-service providers, new financing arrangements can create potential procurement pipelines once projects move from financing discussions into formal development and tendering.

The government will still need to determine the specific projects, financing structures and implementation arrangements that emerge from its discussions with the China Development Bank.

PROJECT HERALD INTELLIGENCE

Country:	Kenya
Sector:	Infrastructure / Roads / Water / Connectivity
Financier Under Discussion:	China Development Bank
Status:	Financing discussions
Potential Project Areas:	Roads, water & connectivity infrastructure

***Commercial Signal:** Any financing agreement that moves projects into implementation could generate future opportunities across engineering, construction, equipment supply, project services and related infrastructure procurement.*