

Côte d'Ivoire

In January 1997, the Cote d'Ivoire government chose FCR as a strategic partner for the privatization of national carrier **Côte d'Ivoire Telecom**. The company holds a 51 percent equity stake in Côte d'Ivoire Telecom through a consortium that includes the Sifcom group and several Côte d'Ivoire investment companies. Since then, **Côte d'Ivoire Telecom** has modernized existing services and extended the network.

In May 2000, the company serves more than 234,000 customers. Furthermore, investments of FF 2.5 billion are scheduled over 5 years to cover the town of over 3,000 inhabitants, open 300,000 new lines (going from the current 139,000 lines to 410,000 in 2001) and install 2,400 additional phone booths.

In 1996, the **SIM (Société Ivoirienne de Mobiles)** company was founded to set up and operate a GSM 900 cellular telephone network in Côte d'Ivoire. The capital of this company is held by Sifcom (30%) and FCR (70%). The service was launched in October 1996 under the name of Ivoiris and counts 158,000 subscribers by May 2000.



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