

April 2009

### **Bridging the digital divide through mobile learning**

Nokia and Nokia Siemens Networks have partnered with social network platform MXit to provide a pilot project for mobile mathematics learning. The pilot, which commenced in February 2009, will run until end June 2009 and will see 260 Grade 10 learners completing more than 10 500 exercises on a free channel of the social networking platform, MXit.

“We believe that mobile technology can go a long way to bridging the digital divide in Africa, especially in the area of education,” says Riitta Vanska, Project Manager for the initiative and Senior Manager University Relations and Future Learning at Nokia. “By using a common platform, we are able to provide free access to supplementary maths materials and interactive mathematical resource for learners. The aim of this, and other Nokia collaborative projects, is to find a scalable, sustainable and affordable solution to mobile learning.”

The project, called “ImfundoYami / ImfundoYethu”, is built to enhance the traditional learning environment through a medium widely accessible and of considerable interest to learners. Learners in Gauteng, the North West and the Western Cape provinces will use their own handsets to access the mathematics content on MXit. This project exemplifies Nokia and Nokia Siemens Networks corporate responsibility goal to improve learning and education amongst youth.

Linda Khumalo, Head of Southern Africa sub region, Nokia Siemens Networks enforces the ideals of the project stating that, “This initiative aims at enhancing the formal learning process at schools fits in very well with our corporate social responsibility program of adopting schools to promote education. Planned in close co-operation with the government’s Department of Education, the office of the president and the office of the Vice President we have been able to successfully embed the solution in the local maths curriculum, ensuring a well structured complementary format to the academic tools already available in the market.”

In addition to mobile learning, the pilot includes training on mobile ethics and awareness of the risks involved with surfing the internet and chatting online. The mobile learning initiative is a continuation of earlier projects including the m4girls initiative which introduced mobile learning in the classroom of two NorthWest schools in August 2008.

#### **Nokia Community Involvement**

Nokia has a positive impact on society that extends beyond the advanced technology, products and services the company creates. Through its cooperation with local and regional philanthropic and social responsibility programs, the company prepares young people to embrace opportunities created by the global economy and new technological advancements. The company has been an active regional contributor to youth and education causes for many years, with Nokia employees making their own contributions as volunteers in a range of programs throughout the world. More information about Nokia is available at [www.nokia.com](http://www.nokia.com).

#### **About Nokia Siemens Networks**

Nokia Siemens Networks is a leading global enabler of telecommunications services. With its focus on innovation and sustainability, the company provides a complete portfolio of mobile, fixed and converged network technology, as well as professional services including consultancy and systems integration, deployment, maintenance and managed services. It is one of the largest telecommunications hardware, software and professional services companies in the world. Operating in 150 countries, its headquarters are in Espoo, Finland.

[www.nokiasiemensnetworks.com](http://www.nokiasiemensnetworks.com)

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