

CV- BEN Roberts

Full Name: - Benjamin Mark Roberts

Date of Birth: - 5 November 1970

Nationality: - British

https://www.linkedin.com/in/ben-roberts-9085592/?trk=opento_sprofile_details

Key Skills

A leading senior figure in the implementation of Digital Infrastructure on the African Continent

Strong interpersonal and leadership skills

Effective negotiation and vendor management skills

Successful in fast paced and quick changing environments

Senior Management and Board level appointments

Excellent communication skills, both oral and written

Technical expertise in a multitude of network technologies

Change management and transformation following acquisition

Building the best teams and growing their skills to realize the company's goals

Education

1990-1993 University of Bristol

Bsc Honours Degree Physics - Grade 2.1

1982-1989 The Lord Grey School, Bletchley, Milton Keynes

A levels Physics (A), Maths (A) Design Technology (D) General Studies (D)

12 GCSE O Levels Grades A-C

Directorships

2013 – 2024 - Liquid Telecommunications Kenya Ltd – Board Chairman – Nairobi, Kenya

2013 – 2024 - East Africa Data Centre Ltd – Board Chairman - Nairobi, Kenya

2014 – 2024 - Raha Limited - Tanzania

2014 – 2024 - Zanlink Limited - Tanzania

2013 – 2024 - The East African Marine Systems Ltd (TEAMS) – Nairobi, Kenya

2014 – 2022 - West Indian Ocean Cable Company (WIOCC) – Ebene, Mauritius

Employment Record

Liquid Telecom Group of Companies

Liquid Telecom is the leading independent data, voice and IP provider in eastern, southern and central Africa. They supply fibre optic, satellite and international carrier services to mobile networks, ISPs and businesses of all sizes, as well as communication solutions for individuals.

Liquid Telecom has built Africa's largest single fibre network, currently stretching over 17,000km across Uganda, Kenya, Rwanda, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Botswana, DRC, Lesotho and South Africa. The award-winning Pan-African fibre network covers Africa's fastest growing economies, where no fixed network has existed before.

Positions Held

April 2017 to date, Group Chief of Technology and Innovation, Liquid Telecom Group

Running the overall strategy of networks and network services within Liquid Telecom Group. Built Africa's largest and fastest multi award winning DWDM/IP terrestrial network, as well as a fast growing and award winning VSAT satellite broadband network. Had overall responsibility for key network products and their rollout and implementation within the group. Managing and building an expert team of network design and operations specialists in London and Africa. Defined standardized design principles and strategies to use fibre routes to provide maximum redundancy without single points of failure to achieve availability performance that leads the market in the target countries. Worked on and still continuing network and operations process integration of 6 newly acquired companies into the Liquid Telecom 'One Network'.

Nov 2013 to April 2017, CEO, Liquid Telecom Kenya

Leading the groups Kenya Operation following the acquisition of Kenya Data networks in 2013. Continued alignment of the company into the Liquid Telecom Group, as well as positioning the company's strategy to address the Kenyan and East African Market places. Turned the company from a loss making position within 12 months of acquisition and driving continued growth, cultural change and enhanced market position into 2014.

Nov 2012 to 2017, Group Director of Network Strategy, Liquid Telecom Group

Running the overall strategy of networks and network services within Liquid Telecom Group. Built Africa's largest and fastest multi award winning DWDM/IP terrestrial network, as well as a fast growing and award winning VSAT satellite broadband network. Had overall responsibility for key network products and their rollout and implementation within the group. Managing and building an expert team of network design and operations specialists in London and Africa. Defined standardized design principles and strategies to use fibre routes to provide maximum redundancy without single points of failure to achieve availability performance that leads the market in the target countries. Worked on and still continuing network and operations process integration of 6 newly acquired companies into the Liquid Telecom 'One Network'.

Nov 2005 to Nov 2013 CTO, Liquid Telecommunications Ltd.

Led Liquid Telecoms network strategy as it transformed from a UK based satellite and voice operator to a multi award winning Pan African Fibre network. Formed and led a team of network experts in London who exported skills into Liquid Telecoms human capital development as they expanded rapidly into the world of fibre terrestrial networks. Built complimentary network technology products for the needs of wholesale carrier and enterprise on platforms over fibre and satellite to realize revenue from Liquid Telecoms investment. This ensured a capital return on the first phases of Liquids fibre investments.

Sept 2002 – Oct 2005 Voice Network Architect Econet Satellite Services Ltd

An African focused start-up wholesale VOIP and internet carrier, delivering voice, internet, satellite and GSM solutions into telcos, GSM operators and ISPs in Africa. The company was transformed into Liquid Telecommunications Ltd in 2005.

Had responsibility for overall design, planning, project implementation and operations of the voice equipment and IP networks, as well as working on the satellite earth station equipment. Built and grew the technical platforms and operations of the profitable voice and satellite data networks.

April 2002 – Sept 2002 Special Projects Manager Voiptec Limited

A start up venture to provide consultancy, support, equipment sales and rental to Voice over IP (VOIP) operators.

Worked with customers in UK, Europe and USA on resolving problems on their VOIP networks and database platforms. Developed and integrated a demo IVR system into customers VOIP softswitch using C++ and OpenH323 protocol stack. Worked on company bids and proposals to supply equipment, services and consultancy. Account management of key customers.

Sept 2000 – April 2002 Technical Support Engineer, Clarent Technologies Ltd

EMEA Sales and Support Division of Clarent Corporation, a leading provider of VOIP gateways and software to old and new telecoms providers globally.

Supported customers on Voice networks as part of the EMEA Teir 3 Engineering Team

Nov 1996 – Sept 2000 Development Engineer, Ericsson Componedex

An Ericsson company, supplying equipment satellite data networks and radio paging networks.

Had responsibility for software and hardware design of equipment for satellite paging distribution networks and support and network management in broadband satellite networks.

Jan 1994 – Nov 1996 Development Engineer, Newport Components

Manufacturer of Magnetic Hybrid DC/DD converters, inductors and pulse transformers.

Responsible for the design, development and production engineering of magnetic electronic components and software design of PC based automatic test systems in C and Basic.

Sept 1989 – July 1990, Pre-University Placement, Lotus Cars

Manufacturer of sports cars.

This position involved assisting with the production engineering of the Lotus Carlton as the project moved from a design to a production stage.

Languages:

French basic conversation

Personal Interests

Outdoor activities, skiing, hiking, climbing, mountain biking, kayaking, running.

References

Supplied on Request