Press Release

First Internet Exchange in Iraq: IRAQ-IXP powered by DE-CIX is now live

Frankfurt am Main/Baghdad, 07 February 2024. DE-CIX, the world's leading operator of Internet Exchanges (IX), and IRAQ-IXP, the first and unique neutral Internet Exchange that serves all Iraqi regions, announce today that the new Internet Exchange "IRAQ-IXP powered by DE-CIX", is now live and connecting networks. Twelve networks are already connected or in the process of connecting to the new data center and carrier neutral IX. The interconnection platform is hosted in the IRAQ-IXP data center in Baghdad and operated by DE-CIX under the DE-CIX as a Service (DaaS) model. The IX will in future also be directly connected to the world's largest interconnection ecosystem through DE-CIX Istanbul and DE-CIX Frankfurt, the largest IX in Europe. This allows customers to access thousands of networks globally. IRAQ-IXP powered by DE-CIX is built on DE-CIX's award-winning interconnection infrastructure, offering peering, cloud connectivity, and enterprise-grade interconnection services. The interconnection platform is set to serve as a hub for regional connectivity, enabling local networks low-latency interconnection and the localization of global content, while increasing network stability, scalability, and security.

"The millions of users in Iraq deserve digital services of state-of-the-art quality. This requires the best local infrastructure possible, which DE-CIX is delighted to contribute to. With a strong and diverse landscape of Internet service and network providers, Iraq is in need of local interconnection to create local data and content gravity, and its Internet connectivity will be strongly enhanced through the new IX. IRAQ-IXP powered by DE-CIX is the ideal place for international networks interested in reaching this important Middle Eastern market," comments Ivo Ivanov, CEO of DE-CIX. "The new IX, established through the partnership between DE-CIX and IRAQ-IXP, will unleash the potential of the country's emerging digital economy by providing better performance and user experience of content and applications, and affordable and high-quality Internet access for enterprises and individuals."

"We have a strong vision to provide improved connection services to our customers, taking care of data flow in terms of speed and comprehensive security," comments Ahmed Rakwi, CEO of IRAQ-IXP, on the new Internet Exchange. "IRAQ-IXP powered by DE-CIX is set to serve local, regional, and international ISPs, CDNs, content and cloud, as well as enterprise networks,

covering the interconnection demand of our customers. This partnership will improve the resilience of local and regional connectivity, lower the latency of data traffic, and improve the performance of cloud-based resources and applications."

DE-CIX, home to the largest neutral interconnection ecosystem in the world, has been active in the Middle East for more than a decade, and now operates IXs in several countries in the region: the UAE, Jordan, and Iraq, as well as Turkey. IRAQ-IXP powered by DE-CIX joins such success stories as the UAE-IX powered by DE-CIX in Dubai, also operated under the DaaS model. The DaaS program includes a set of services – such as installation, maintenance, provisioning, marketing and sales support – designed for data center operators or other third parties to create their own Internet Exchange and interconnection platform fully operated by DE-CIX.

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About DE-CIX
DE-CIX is the world's leading operator of Internet Exchanges (IXs). DE-CIX offers its interconnection services in around 50 metro-markets in Europe, Africa, North America, the Middle East, and Asia. Accessible from data centers in over 600 cities world-wide, DE-CIX interconnects thousands of network operators (carriers), Internet service providers (ISPs), content providers and enterprise networks from more than 100 countries, and offers peering, cloud, and interconnection services. DE-CIX in Frankfurt, Germany, is one of the largest Internet Exchanges in the world, with a data volume of almost 40 Exabytes per year (as of 2023) and close to 1100 connected networks. More than 200 colleagues from over 30 different nations form the foundation of the DE-CIX success story in Germany and around the world. Since the beginning of the commercial Internet, DE-CIX has had a decisive influence – in a range of leading global bodies, such as the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF) – on co-defining guiding principles for the Internet of the present and the future. As the operator of critical IT infrastructure, DE-CIX bears a great responsibility for the seamless, fast, and secure data exchange between people, enterprises, and organizations at its locations around the globe.
Further information at www.de-cix.net

About IRAQ-IXP
IRAQ-IXP (Iraq Internet Exchange Point) is a first unique neutral IXP in IRAQ, offering IP transit, Transit, co-location, hosting, CDN, and peering. The IRAQ-IXP promoting IRAQ to be the next HUB in the region with the shortest path to Europe through a very stable, protected network inside IRAQ connected to all 16 borders of the country.

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