



MAURITIUS

The Cyber Island

Mauritius : The right ICT destination

Attractive package of fiscal incentives, state-of-the-art telecommunications, pool of skilled and bilingual (English/French) IT professionals, the Ebène Cybercity and new generation Technology Parks, a gateway to the African and French speaking markets, convenient time zone, protection of intellectual property, political and social stability, pleasant living and working conditions, fast growing ICT industry and Government commitment to develop Mauritius into a Cyber Island....

Mauritius offers a conducive environment and a unique blend of advantages that make it an attractive offshore destination for foreign ICT companies in terms of cost-effectiveness, quality workforce and state-of-the-art infrastructure.

The island has successfully attracted key players from Europe, North America and India to set up development centres, conduct BPO activities and operate Disaster Recovery Centres.



Mauritius : The Cyber Island

Strategically located in the Indian Ocean at the crossroads of Asia and Africa, Mauritius has successfully developed from a monocrop economy since its independence in 1968 to a well diversified economy, resting on agriculture, export-oriented manufacturing, tourism and financial services. After sustained economic growth averaging 5.7% during the last two decades, Mauritius is now shifting gears to move towards a higher stage of economic development, with emphasis on the ICT sector and knowledge-driven activities.

The Government has the vision and ambition to develop Mauritius into a Cyber Island and the hub for the regional IT industry.

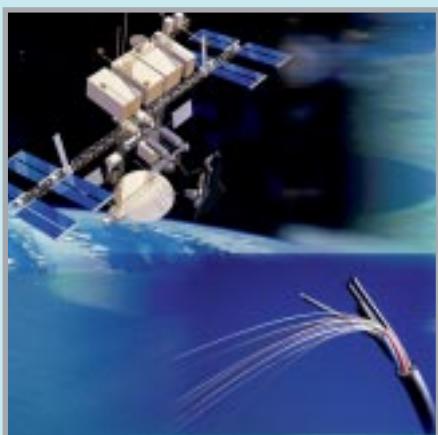
The telecommunications sector has been liberalised, one year ahead of schedule. Government is investing a mammoth \$ 100 million in the Ebene Cybercity, a state-of-the-art technology park, and has also embarked on an ambitious e-government programme to link all Government departments, agencies and service providers. Appropriate legislations on data security and protection, intellectual property rights and Human Resource Development have been enacted.

The commitment of the Government to this initiative is total and unfailing. The High Level Ministerial ICT Committee, driven by the Prime Minister, addresses issues relating to infrastructure, telecommunications, human resources, legal and regulatory framework, IT usage, e-governance and attractive investment policies.

The dynamic private sector is equally involved in the process of building a robust ICT industry, which is called upon to become the next economic growth engine and the fifth pillar of the Mauritian economy.

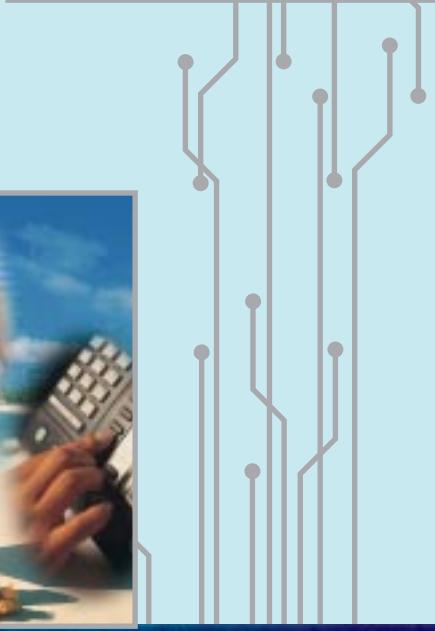
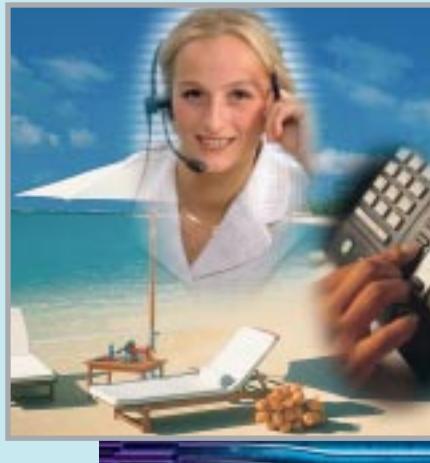
Sophisticated telecommunications

Mauritius has a well-developed digital network infrastructure (<http://mt.intnet.mu>) and offers state-of-the-art telecommunications facilities namely ADSL, ISDN, high bandwidth international leased lines (IPLCs) and Internet access.



The SAT-3/WASC/SAFE (South Africa - Far East) submarine fibre optic cable, operational since May 2002 and linking Europe/Mauritius/South Africa/Malaysia, places the island on the information superhighway and provides very high bandwidth global connectivity of initial capacity of 20 Gbps, and which can be extended to 130 Gbps.

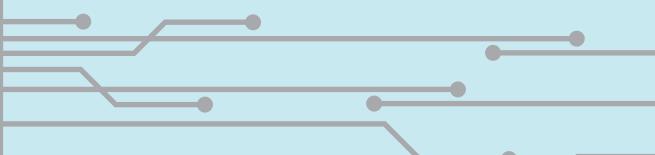
Mauritius Telecom, the national operator, has a Point of Presence (PoP) in Telehouse in Paris, where major international bandwidth providers and key telecommunications operators are present for interconnection thereby providing end-to-end service. This has enabled Mauritius Telecom to revise its tariffs and offer competitive rates for international connectivity. In view of pursuing our national strategy to transform Mauritius into a Cyber Island, a preferential tailor-made package is offered for IPLC and IP-VPN leased lines to Europe, North America and India.



Pool of skilled professionals



Mauritians are bilingual in English and French. Hindi and other oriental languages are also widely spoken. Our IT professionals are trained both locally and overseas, namely in France, the UK, North America, India, Australia, Singapore and South Africa.



An indicative salary grid is as follows:

	Monthly salary in USD
Call centre operators	200 - 250
Programmers/Engineers without experience	400 - 450
Programmers/Engineers with 3 years experience	500 - 700
Project Managers/Consultants	as from 800



In order to achieve its ambition to transform Mauritius into a Cyber Island, the Government has a clear cut strategy for human resource development and is investing massively in IT education and the training of IT professionals. Ten Government funded and 30 private institutions, in collaboration with reputed foreign universities and international training centres, provide tertiary education as well as specialized professional training courses.

Key players such as NCC, NIIT, Aptech, SII, Tata Infotech are already operating their training centres on the island.

The Industrial and Vocational Training Board - IVTB (<http://ivtb.intnet.mu>), a Government organization responsible for promoting vocational training, is continuously developing human resources for the call centre and BPO industry. The IVTB recruits, funds and trains call centre operators and BPO agents on a regular basis. It also offers tailor-made courses to suit the requirements of the industry.

With a view to stimulating the development of the ICT industry, the Government has recently introduced the *Scheme to Attract Professionals For Emerging Sectors (SAPES)* to encourage and attract foreign IT talents to work and live in Mauritius. This scheme provides a three-year work and residence permit to professionals in the IT and Financial Services, with the option to apply for Permanent Resident status thereafter. Such professionals can also buy residential property on the island and their spouses may take up employment.



State-of-the-art Technology Parks

The Ebène Cybercity, a new generation of knowledge park is playing a leading role to develop Mauritius into a Cyber Island. Strategically located at only 15 minutes from the capital and 40 minutes from the airport, the Ebène Cybercity is an integrated mega project of 64 hectares comprising a Cyber Tower, a Business Zone, a Knowledge Centre, a Commercial Centre, a World Class Hotel, an Administrative Block to house government offices, and a Residential and Recreational Complex. The Cyber Tower provides 40,000 m² of ultra modern office space equipped with high bandwidth connectivity at competitive rates. The Business Parks Mauritius Ltd (BPML) runs and operates the Ebène Cybercity (www.bpmmlmauritius.com).

IT activities are also being conducted from the Informatics Park and the Freeport Trade and Marketing Centre, two intelligent buildings dedicated to IT activities.

Modern office space suitable for ICT activities is also available at reasonable rates across the island.

Fiscal Incentives

An attractive tailor-made incentive scheme is offered for the ICT sector. The package of incentives include:

- ▶ Tax holiday up to 2008 and a 15% corporate tax thereafter. For call centres or back office operations, the company can opt for a uniform corporate tax of 5%
- ▶ Duty-free import of equipment
- ▶ Accelerated depreciation allowances for ICT equipment in the form of investment allowance of 50% plus annual allowance of the total investment over 3 years (i.e 33 1/3 annually)
- ▶ 50% relief on personal income tax for a specified number of foreign IT specialists per company
- ▶ Duty-free import of personal belongings of expatriates excluding vehicles
- ▶ Fast track processing of visa, work and residence permits for expatriates
- ▶ Electricity tariffs at industrial rates instead of commercial rates
- ▶ Duty free import of two cars (maximum duty remission of Rs 500,000 per car) provided that the initial investment exceeds Rs. 50M or the project creates at least 200 jobs for Mauritian workers.

(Average rate as at August 2003 is 1 USD = Rs 30)

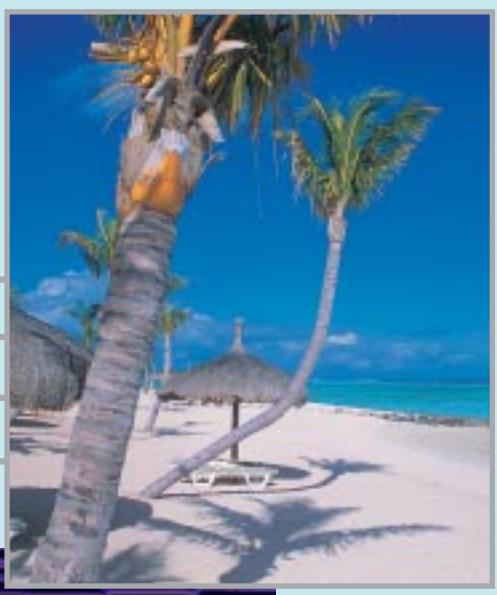


Mauritius: A business friendly environment

Mauritius offers a conducive and business friendly environment that makes it an attractive and competitive ICT location.

- ▶ Political, economic and social stability
- ▶ Attractive package of fiscal incentives
- ▶ Gateway to Africa and French-speaking markets
- ▶ Availability of modern office space
- ▶ Convenient time zone differences with Europe, Asia and Africa
(GMT+4)
- ▶ Enabling legal and regulatory framework
- ▶ Pleasant living conditions with world class amenities and facilities
- ▶ No foreign exchange control
- ▶ Well-developed physical and communication infrastructure: modern sea and airport, well-developed telecommunications, stable power supply, good road network, etc
- ▶ Modern banking facilities
- ▶ Good governance and sound macroeconomic environment
- ▶ Free repatriation of profits, dividends and capital
- ▶ 100 % foreign ownership.

The unique blend of advantages offered by Mauritius, coupled with its competitive edge of being a very safe location, has attracted several giants such as Infosys, Accenture, Satyam and Cendris (TGP Group) to set up development centres on the island.





The Board of Investment

Your first contact point to invest in Mauritius

The Board of Investment (BOI) is the apex Investment Promotion and Facilitation agency of the Republic of Mauritius and operates under the aegis of the Ministry of Finance.

BOI (www.boimauritius.com) receives, processes and approves investment projects and issues Investment Certificates to promoters. Its dedicated team of professionals provides a personalised service to potential investors and existing promoters. Our services include identification of investment opportunities, organising meetings with public agencies and economic operators, identifying joint-venture partners, finding office space, factory buildings or sites, etc. We also facilitate expeditious obtention of necessary licences, permits and clearances.

A BPO Secretariat is being set up at the BOI to spearhead the development of BPO activities in Mauritius.

BOI operates two representative offices in Paris and Mumbai respectively to provide hands-on information to potential investors on investment opportunities and procedures for investing in Mauritius.

Our services are free of charge.



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