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## **Jolla announces Sailfish Africa - the Sailfish OS mobile ecosystem for Africa**

**South Africa, Johannesburg, May 28, 2015 - - Jolla Ltd., the Finnish mobile company and developer of open mobile operating system Sailfish OS, today announced that it is set to build a Sailfish OS ecosystem in Africa starting from South Africa.**

Continuing last week's announcement of developing a Sailfish OS based mobile ecosystem to Russia, Jolla now announces the next step in its strategy for the BRICS countries (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa). Jolla is now joining forces to create the Sailfish Africa consortium together with its local partner **Dr. Sello Rathete**, one of the co-founders of South-African operator Cell-C.

The main objective for Sailfish Africa is to gather a group of African investors to develop an independent Sailfish OS based mobile ecosystem for Africa. The initiative starts from South Africa, and later the aim is to expand the Sailfish Africa ecosystem to other African countries.

Russia's Minister of Telecom and Mass Communications **Nikolay Nikiforov** visited last week South Africa to promote the Sailfish OS agenda for BRICS countries to local government officials.

**Dr. Antti Saarnio**, Chairman of the Board of Jolla Ltd. comments: "This is a logical continuation of Russia's announcement last week to develop a mobile ecosystem based on Sailfish OS. After Minister Nikiforov's visit last week here in South Africa, we are now taking practical steps forward to create the Sailfish Africa ecosystem together with local powerhouses from e-commerce, digital media and mobile. Africa deserves to have its own independent mobile ecosystem. Current development with only one mobile OS is leading to digital colonialization, and it must be avoided. That is why we see strong interest from local players to joint the agenda."

**Dr. Sello Rathete** comments: "I have been following Jolla and Sailfish OS for more than a year now, and I have realized that Sailfish OS is the only existing alternative to build a viable independent mobile ecosystem. Online and offline businesses are rapidly moving to mobile and it is essential for African economies to start developing their own independent ecosystems for mobile. It does not make sense that all the businesses in mobile are taxed by US companies, and we also need to have a platform where we can freely develop our own solutions for e-Commerce, mobile banking and e-Learning. That is what Sailfish OS offers to Africa."

## **One platform for all BRICS countries**

Jolla's plan is to offer African internet powerhouses a Sailfish OS based platform to which they can effectively integrate their local services and solutions. The objective is to offer one mobile platform for all BRICS countries, and create regional solutions by integrating local services to them. As Sailfish OS is an open platform with open source software, integrating support for local services to the operating system is both effective and natural.

Dr. Antti Saarnio continues: "In addition to South Africa, we are currently building similar initiatives with local partners in India and Russia. We expect to announce further news about the expansion of the ecosystems in the coming weeks."

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### **About Jolla Ltd.**

Jolla Ltd., the mobile company from Finland, is the developer of Sailfish OS, the open mobile operating system. The first Sailfish OS mobile product, the Jolla Smartphone, was first introduced in November 2013 and it is currently available in Europe, Hong Kong, India and Russia. In November 2014 Jolla introduced the Jolla Tablet, set to hit the markets in H2/2015.

Jolla was born in 2011 out of the passion of its founders towards open innovation in the mobile space, continuing the heritage of Nokia and MeeGo. Sailfish OS, the Jolla Smartphone and Jolla Tablet are designed and developed in Finland.

Jolla Ltd. has offices in Helsinki (HQ) and Tampere, Finland and Hong Kong.  
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