December 9th of 2016, the African Development Bank (AfDB) approved a loan of USD 33.35M and a grant of USD 13.3M to the Republic of Niger to finance the national component of the Trans-Saharan fiber-optic backbone (DTS). By establishing links between Niger, Chad, Algeria and Nigeria, and by consolidating their interconnections with other neighbouring countries (Benin and Burkina Faso), the backbone will increase access to high speed broadband, guaranteeing quality telecommunication services at an affordable price for both Nigerian and Chadian populations and businesses. The project is expected to have a strong leverage effect on the digital sector, contributing to the diversification of the economy and job creation, especially for young graduates.