

RADIO SPECTRUM AND TECHNICAL STANDARDS
ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Seventh Meeting
held at 2:30 p.m., Thursday, 15 May 2014
in Conference Room 2020, Wu Chung House, Wanchai

Present

Mr P H Ma	Chairman (OFCA staff)
Ms Diana Chan	Representative of the Hong Kong Police Force
Mr Henry Chan	Representative of Hutchison Telephone Company Limited and Hutchison Global Communications Limited
Mr Raymond Chan	Representative of Hong Kong Cable Television Limited
Mr Y C Chan	Representative of Television Broadcasts Limited and TVB Pay Vision Limited
Mr Eric Chau	Representative of TraxComm Limited
Mr Alex Cheng	Representative of China Mobile Hong Kong Company Limited
Dr Lawrence Cheung	Representative of Hong Kong Productivity Council
Mr Thomas Fok	Representative of Civil Aviation Department
Mr Wai Ho	Representative of Asia Television Limited
Mr H C Hung	Representative of Reach Networks Hong Kong Limited
Mr S M Ko	Representative of Metro Broadcast Corporation Limited
Mr Francis Kwok	Representative of Radio Television Hong Kong
Mr Cyrus Lai	Representative of SmarTone Communications Limited/SmarTone Mobile Communications Limited
Mr Paul Lam	Representative of Hong Kong Commercial Broadcasting Company Limited
Mr Michael Lee	Representative of EU ICT Council in Hong Kong and Macau
Dr C K Li	Representative of Hong Kong Institution of Engineers
Mr George Mak	Representative of Consumer Council
Mr Kenneth Ng	Representative of New World Telecommunications Limited
Ms P Y Ngai	Ad Personam
Mr Ken Sit	Representative of Local Certification Bodies as a group
Mr Johnny Siu	Representative of amateur radio societies as a group
Mr Y F Tsui	Representative of Independent Commission against Corruption

Mr Samson Wong	Representative of ComNet Telecom (HK) Limited
Dr Simon Wong	Representative of Independent Commission against Corruption
Ms Vicky Wong	Representative of Asia Satellite Telecommunications Company Limited and External FTNS / Fixed Carrier / Unified Carrier (External Fixed Services) Licensees as a group
Mr Bill Yeung	Representative of Wharf T&T Limited
Mr L H Ting	Secretary (OFCA staff)

Absent with Apologies

Mr Kenneth Chan	Representative of services-based operators (MVNO and ETS operators only) as a group
Mr Carlson Chu	Representative of PCCW Media Limited
Mr Eric Fan	Representative of local industry associations as a group
Mr Simon Heung	Representative of Digital Broadcasting Corporation Hong Kong Limited
Mr Clifford Ho	Representative of Towngas Telecommunications Fixed Network Limited
Mr John Ho	Representative of the Institution of Engineering and Technology Hong Kong
Mr Jimmy Lee	Representative of Telstra International HK Limited and Telstra International Limited
Mr K K Luk	Representative of HKC Network Limited
Mr Adam Wong	Representative of Hong Kong Telecommunications (HKT) Limited, PCCW-HKT Telephone Limited and Hong Kong
Mr S T Yiu	Representative of Phoenix U Radio Limited

In Attendance

Mr K K Wong	OFCA staff
Mr Joe Ching	OFCA staff
Ms Annie Lo	OFCA staff
Mr C H Chan	OFCA staff
Mr Kent Yu	OFCA staff
Mr Eric Fung	OFCA staff

Observer

Mr Y H Chan	Representative of Asia Satellite Telecommunications Company Limited
Mr W L Ho	Representative of amateur radio societies as a group
Mr Kelvin Hong	Representative of Hong Kong Broadband Network Limited
Mr Y T Kan	Representative of the Hong Kong Police Force
Mr Kelvin Yeung	Representative of CSL Limited
Mr K H Yip	Representative of Traxcomm Limited

Agenda Item 1: Matters Arising from the Previous Meeting

Item 3 of the 6th SSAC Meeting (proposed spectrum release plan for 2014-16)

1. The Secretary reported that OFCA had received no further comment on the proposed spectrum release plan for 2014-16 after the last meeting. Accordingly, the spectrum release plan for 2014-16 had been approved by the CA and posted on the websites of CA and OFCA.

Item 5 of the 6th SSAC Meeting (performance specification for digital fixed link equipment operating in the 11 GHz band)

2. The Secretary reported that OFCA had received no further comment on the proposed new specification HKCA 1068 after the last meeting. Accordingly, the specification HKCA 1068 had been adopted and posted on OFCA's website.

Item 6 of the 6th SSAC Meeting (performance specification for on-site radio paging equipment)

3. The Secretary reported that OFCA had received no further comment on the proposed new specification HKCA 1069 after the last meeting. Accordingly, the specification HKCA 1069 had been adopted and posted on OFCA's website.

Item 7 of the 6th SSAC Meeting (revisions to standardization guides HKCA 3201, HKCA 3202 and HKCA 3203)

4. The Secretary reported that OFCA had received no further comment on the proposed revised standardization guides HKCA 3201, HKCA 3202 and HKCA 3203 after the last meeting. Accordingly, these standardization guides

had been adopted and posted on OFCA's website.

Agenda Item 2: Mobile Market Development in the 3 GHz Band

5. Mr Michael Lee gave a presentation on the development of international mobile telecommunication (IMT) services in the 3 GHz band (3.4-3.8 GHz). He briefed Members on the frequency allocation status of the 3 GHz band for IMT in Europe, the US and Japan, the compatibility study by the China Communications Standards Association (CCSA) between IMT and fixed-satellite service (FSS) downlink and the status of the relevant base station products development.

6. Mr Michael Lee estimated that the mobile data traffic might be increased by 1000 times by the 2020s. He pointed out that increase in spectrum supply, network density and spectral efficiency of equipment should be achieved in order to cope with such traffic growth. He opined that, with the continually advancing technologies, spectrum efficiency of equipment could be improved to cater for the growth of mobile data traffic.

7. Mr Michael Lee said that the European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications of Administrations (CEPT) proposed to amend a decision to designate the 3400-3800 MHz band to mobile/fixed communications networks and to specify the time division duplex (TDD) and frequency division duplex (FDD) frequency arrangements. In the USA, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) proposed to make rules allowing the operation of small cells to deliver wireless broadband service in the 3550-3560 MHz band. In Japan, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (MIC) decided to award spectrum on the 3400-3600 MHz band to the mobile operators with commercial services expected to be launched in 2016.

8. Concerning the CCSA study on the compatibility between IMT and FSS downlink in the 3 GHz band, Ms Vicky Wong pointed out that the required separation distance between IMT base station and FSS earth station ranged from the order of hundreds metres to the order of kilometres under different analytical methods and assumptions. The Chairman welcomed further information and views from AsiaSat on this issue, and information on any compatibility tests conducted by other parties/organizations from the Members.

[Posting-meeting note: Ms Vicky Wong offered AsiaSat's comments on this

subject, making reference to the Draft New Report (DNR) of ITU-R Joint Task Group 4-5-6-7 titled “Sharing Studies between IMT-Advanced Systems and Geostationary Satellite Networks in the Fixed-Satellite Service in the 3400-4200 MHz and 4500-4800 MHz Frequency Bands in the WRC Study Cycle leading to WRC-15.” At the request of AsiaSat, the document giving its comments was circulated separately to the Members for reference.]

Agenda Item 3: Update on the Development of Multiple Gigabit Wireless Systems and Generic Short Range Devices Operating in the 60 GHz Band (SSAC Paper 7/2014)

9. Mr C H Chan introduced SSAC Paper 7/2014 that updated the overseas development of Multiple Gigabit Wireless Systems (MGWS) and generic short range devices operating in the 57-66 GHz band. He briefed Members on the status of equipment certification in the industry organizations (i.e. the Wi-Fi Alliance and the WirelessHD Consortium), the frequency allocation and regulatory arrangements in Europe and the USA.

10. The Chairman said that OFCA would keep in view the development progress in equipment certification and the availability of MGWS equipment and short range devices operating in the 57-66 GHz band on the mass market, and consider making necessary frequency allocation in due course.

11. The Chairman welcomed comments from Members on this subject within two weeks, i.e. by 29 May 2014.

Agenda Item 4: International Development of Automotive Radars Operating in the 76-81 GHz Band (SSAC Paper 8/2014)

12. Mr C H Chan introduced SSAC Paper 8/2014 that covered a brief on the international development of automotive radars operating in the 76-81 GHz band. The presentation covered introduction to the two categories of automotive radars (i.e. narrowband long range radar and ultra-wideband short range radar), work within ITU about the allocation of the 76-81 GHz band for radiolocation service, and the spectrum allocation and regulatory arrangements in Europe and the USA. The allocation and existing utilization of the 76-81 GHz band in Hong Kong was also introduced.

13. Mr Johnny Siu said that, according to the study conducted by the CEPT (study report published in October 2004), the probability of interference between radiolocation service and amateur service in the 77-81 GHz band was very low. As regards the potential interference from radiolocation service to radio astronomy service, Mr Johnny Siu said that in Australia regulatory measures were taken to protect the radio astronomy service, by prohibiting operation of automotive radars within certain area around a radio astronomy station. Mr Johnny Siu said that ITU-R Working Party WP 5B would convene a meeting on 19-30 May 2014 covering the “sharing between radiolocation service and amateur and amateur-satellite services in the 77.5-78 GHz band”. The amateur radio societies would keep track of the related development. The Chairman welcomed further information about this subject from the amateur radio societies and other Members.

14. Mr Johnny Siu pointed out that potential interference from amateur service to radiolocation service needed to be considered carefully in order to ensure proper operation of automotive radar equipment, especially in the 77.5-78 GHz band where amateur radio was a primary service. Mr Johnny Siu further pointed out that the amateur radio societies were of the view that the primary allocation of that frequency band for amateur radio should be maintained. Dr Lawrence Cheung supplemented that, in order to enhance road safety, there might be more than one type of sensor installed in vehicles. In addition to radar system, vision-based system comprising cameras for both long range and short range applications might also be used as supplementary aids to radar-based equipment.

15. The Chairman invited comments from Members on this subject within two weeks, i.e. by 29 May 2014.

Agenda Item 5: Proposed New Performance Specification for VHF Radio Equipment for Use as Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS) Coast Station (SSAC Paper 9/2014)

16. Mr Kent Yu introduced SSAC Paper 9/2014 that proposed the adoption of a new technical standard, HKCA 1283, covering VHF radio equipment for use as Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS) coast station.

17. The Chairman invited comments from Members on the new specification HKCA 1283 within two weeks, i.e. by 29 May 2014.

Agenda Item 6: Proposed New Performance Specifications for Digital Fixed Link Equipment Operating in the 13 GHz Band and 18 GHz Band (SSAC Paper 10/2014)

18. Mr Eric Fung introduced SSAC Paper 10/2014 that proposed the adoption of the new technical standards, HKCA 1070 and HKCA 1071, covering digital fixed link equipment operating in the 13 GHz and 18 GHz bands respectively.

19. Mr Y H Chan asked whether there was any requirement on the emission characteristics to ensure that interference would not be caused to other existing services in the adjacent bands, such as satellite services. Mr Eric Fung replied that the requirements on spectrum mask of the fixed link equipment were specified in the ETSI standards under reference in the proposed HKCA specifications.

20. The Chairman invited comments from Members on the new specifications HKCA 1070 and HKCA 1071 within two weeks, i.e. by 29 May 2014.

Agenda Item 7: Any Other Business

21. The Secretary said that this meeting was the last SSAC meeting in the current term. The Chairman expressed gratitude to the Members for their participation in the work of SSAC.

22. There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 3:50 p.m.

**Office of the Communications Authority
June 2014**