

RADIO SPECTRUM AND TECHNICAL STANDARDS
ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Twenty-ninth Meeting
held at 2:30 p.m., Monday, 29 January 2024
in Conference Room 2020, 20/F Wu Chung House, Wan Chai

Present

Mr T S Chew	Chairman (OFCA staff)
Mr Desmond Chan	Representative of Hong Kong Broadband Network Limited / HKBN Enterprise Solutions Limited / HKBN Enterprise Solutions HK Limited
Mr Henry C H Chan	Representative of Hutchison Telephone Company Limited
Mr Henry H W Chan	Representative of Independent Commission Against Corruption
Mr S P Chan	Ad Personam
Mr Samuel Chau	Representative of ComNet Telecom (HK) Limited
Mr Matthew Cheng	Representative of China Mobile Hong Kong Company Limited
Mr Jan Cheung	Representative of Consumer Council
Ir W Y Chu	Representative of the Hong Kong Institution of Engineers
Mr C Y Ho	Representative of Civil Aviation Department
Mr K L Ho	Representative of the Local Industry Associations as a group
Mr W L Ho	Representative of Amateur Radio Societies as a group
Mr H C Hung	Representative of Unified Carrier (External Fixed Services) Licensees as a group
Mr S M Ko	Representative of Metro Broadcast Corporation Limited
Mr Garry Kum	Representative of Television Broadcasts Limited
Mr Allan Kwan	Representative of PCCW Media Limited / HK Television Entertainment Company Limited
Mr Alex Lai	Representative of Hong Kong Cable Television Limited / Fantastic Television Limited
Mr Paul Lam	Representative of Hong Kong Commercial Broadcasting Company Limited
Mr Voller Lam	Representative of HGC Global Communications Limited
Mr W T Lam	Representative of Hong Kong Productivity Council
Mr Dennis Lau	Representative of SmarTone Communications Limited / SmarTone Mobile Communications Limited
Ms Irene Lau	Representative of Localised Wireless Broadband Service (LWBS) / Public Radiocommunications Service (PRS) /

Mr Kin Hei Lau	Wireless Internet of Things (WIoT) Licensees as a group
Dr Tony Lee	Representative of Civil Aviation Department
	Representative of the Institution of Engineering and Technology Hong Kong
Mr Karson Ng	Representative of Carrier Licensees not providing Domestic Retail Fixed Services as a group
Mr Jordan Ngan	Representative of Radio Television Hong Kong
Mr W K Shiu	Representative of the Hong Kong Police Force
Mr Jing Su	Representative of APT Satellite Company Limited
Ms Vicky Wong	Representative of Asia Satellite Telecommunications Company Limited
Mr Frank Xie	Representative of China Mobile Hong Kong Company Limited
Mr Sheldon Yau	Representative of Hong Kong Telecommunications (HKT) Limited / PCCW-HKT Telephone Limited and Hong Kong Telecommunications (HKT) Limited / PCCW Global (HK) Limited / Genius Brand Limited
Mr Man Yuen	Representative of Television Broadcasts Limited
Dr Rui Zhang	Representative of Asia Satellite Telecommunications Company Limited
Mr Ivan Chan	Secretary (OFCA staff)

Absent with Apologies

Ms Alice Au	Representative of Carrier Licensees not providing Domestic Retail Fixed Services as a group
Prof Lin Dai	Ad Personam
Mr Kin Ho Lau	Representative of Services-based Operators (MVNO and ETS Operators only) Licensees as a group
Dr K C Lee	Representative of Local Certification Bodies as a group
Mr Michael Lee	Representative of EU ICT Council in Hong Kong and Macau
Mr Tony Tsang	Representative of VNET Group Limited

In Attendance

Mr Tony Yip	OFCA staff
Mr Charles Chow	OFCA staff
Dr Yvonne Lee	OFCA staff
Mr Roger Chan	OFCA staff
Mr Kenneth Cheung	OFCA staff
Mr Gary Lam	OFCA staff
Ms Andrea Lau	OFCA staff
Mr Brian Lee	OFCA staff
Mr Gordon Lei	OFCA staff

Observers

Mr Y H Chan	Representative of Asia Satellite Telecommunications Company Limited
Ms Sharon Shi	Representative of APT Satellite Company Limited

Agenda Item 1: Matters Arising**Minutes of the 28th meeting of the Radio Spectrum and Technical Standards Advisory Committee (“SSAC”)**

1. The Secretary reported that APT Satellite Company Limited (“APT Satellite”) had provided some supplementary information on Item 3 of the 28th SSAC meeting. Subsequently, the meeting minutes were updated and published on OFCA’s website in July 2023.

Item 2 of the 28th SSAC meeting (Review of Charging Scheme for Spectrum Utilization Fee for Spectrum Assigned Administratively)

2. The Secretary reported that a joint written submission from PCCW Media Limited and HK Television Entertainment Company Limited was received by the close of the consultation period. Having duly considered the results of the review and the comments received from the industry, the Communications Authority (“CA”) decided to maintain the adoption of the existing criteria to identify frequency bands that are subject to spectrum utilization fee (“SUF”) and that the prevailing six designated frequency bands should continue to be subject to SUF, and the Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (“SCED”) decided to maintain the prevailing SUF levels¹.

Item 3 of the 28th SSAC Meeting (Hong Kong’s Positions on Agenda Items for World Radiocommunication Conference 2023 (“WRC-23”))

3. The Secretary reported that OFCA had not received any further comment from Members on this item.

Item 4 of the 28th SSAC Meeting (Proposed Revision to HKCA 1056 and HKCA 1057 Performance Specifications for Base Station, Repeater and User Equipment for Use in Public Mobile Communications Services based on Evolved Universal Terrestrial Radio Access (E-UTRA) Frequency Division Duplex (FDD))

¹ The joint statement of the CA and SCED is available at:
https://www.coms-auth.hk/filemanager/statement/en/upload/627/joint_statement_20231208.pdf

4. The Secretary reported that OFCA had not received any further comment from Members on this item. Subsequently, these revised specifications were adopted and published on OFCA's website in July 2023.

Agenda Item 2: World Radiocommunication Conference 2023 Decisions (SSAC Paper No. 1/2024)

5. Mr Roger Chan and Mr Kenneth Cheung presented SSAC Paper No. 1/2024, which reported the decisions of WRC-23 on relevant agenda items ("AIs") covering frequency allocations for different services and satellite regulatory issues, and highlighted those WRC-23 decisions that might involve new frequency allocations in Hong Kong after the relevant decisions entering into force on 1 January 2025.

6. In reply to the Chairman's enquiry on new frequency allocation in Hong Kong arising from AI 1.7, Mr Arthur Lau said that some aviation authorities were planning to commence discussion on the use of the 117.975 – 137 MHz band for aeronautical mobile satellite (route) service ("AMS(R)S") shortly. In view of the potential use of this band for supporting AMS(R)S service by aviation authorities, including the Civil Aviation Department, the Chairman said that OFCA would consider to seek the CA's approval for allocating the 117.975 – 137 MHz band to AMS(R)S on a co-primary basis.

7. The Chairman invited Members to provide views and comments on new frequency allocations in Hong Kong arising from AIs 1.12, 1.13 and 1.14. As Members generally agreed that earth exploration-satellite service and space research service operating in the relevant bands might not be deployed in Hong Kong in the coming few years, the Chairman said that OFCA would only seek the CA's approval for the relevant new frequency allocations in Hong Kong when such deployment arises.

8. In reply to the Chairman's enquiry on new frequency allocations in Hong Kong arising from AI 1.17, Mr Jing Su said that APT Satellite had no concrete plan to use the 18.1 – 18.6 GHz, 18.8 – 20.2 GHz and 27.5 – 30 GHz bands for inter-satellite service ("ISS") but might have demand for such usage in the future. Dr Rui Zhang said that Asia Satellite Telecommunications Company Limited ("AsiaSat") supported the new frequency allocations in Hong Kong as some of its satellites in operation were capable of supporting the concerned frequency bands for ISS. Dr Rui Zhang also opined that demand for data transmission between non-geostationary orbit satellites and geostationary orbit satellites using ISS for various applications had emerged and was expected to

grow rapidly in the coming years. Mr Sheldon Yau expressed concern about the potential interference between the ISS operating in the 27.5 – 30 GHz band and the incumbent mobile services operating in the 24.25 – 28.35 GHz band in Hong Kong. Dr Rui Zhang pointed out that according to the relevant sharing and compatibility studies conducted under AI 1.17, coexistence between ISS and incumbent services including mobile service in the 27.5 – 29.5 GHz band had been proven feasible. The Chairman said that in view of the comments from APT Satellite and AsiaSat, OFCA would consider to seek the CA's approval for allocating the 18.1 – 18.6 GHz, 18.8 – 20.2 GHz and 27.5 – 30 GHz bands to ISS on a co-primary basis.

9. In response to an enquiry from Mr Henry C H Chan about the identification of the 6425 – 7025 MHz (“6 GHz”) band for International Mobile Telecommunications (“IMT”) services in China, the Chairman said that although China was not among the three countries in Region 3 (i.e. Asia and Oceania) which identified the 6 GHz band for IMT in WRC-23, the 7025 – 7125 MHz (“7 GHz”) band was identified for IMT in Region 3 (i.e. including China). The Chairman added that China had expressed its intention of using the 6425 – 7125 MHz (“6/7 GHz”) band for IMT services as the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (“MIIT”) had announced that the 6/7 GHz band would be allocated for IMT in China with effect from 1 July 2023². Subject to the frequency coordination between China and its neighbouring countries, China could be added to the countries list of the relevant Radio Regulations footnote concerning identification of the 6 GHz band for IMT services in Region 3 in the coming World Radiocommunication Conference. In response to Mr Henry C H Chan's further question about the plan of using the 6/7 GHz band for IMT services in Hong Kong, the Chairman replied that a public consultation on the proposed arrangements for assignment of 400 MHz of spectrum in the 6/7 GHz band for the provision of public mobile services, among others, was conducted in 2023 and a joint statement of the CA and SCED would be issued shortly to promulgate their decisions on the matter.

10. The Chairman invited Members to provide comments on the relevant WRC-23 decisions and the proposed new frequency allocations in Hong Kong, if any, by 19 February 2024.

Agenda Item 3: Proposed Revision to HKCA 1065 Performance Specification for Multi-Standard Radio (MSR) Base Station (SSAC Paper No. 2/2024)

² The announcement of MIIT is available at:
https://www.gov.cn/lianbo/bumen/202306/content_6888759.htm

11. Mr Gary Lam presented SSAC Paper No. 2/2024 on the proposed revision of specification HKCA 1065 to cover MSR base station supporting New Radio (NR), and to incorporate all relevant frequency bands for mobile services in Hong Kong including the 703 – 738 MHz / 758 – 793 MHz, 825 – 837.5 MHz / 870 – 882.5 MHz, 3.3 – 3.4 GHz and 3.4 – 3.6 GHz bands.

12. The Chairman invited Members to provide further comments on the proposed revision of specification HKCA 1065, if any, by 19 February 2024.

Agenda Item 4: Proposed New Performance Specifications for New Radio (NR) Base Station and Active Antenna System (AAS) Base Station (SSAC Paper No. 3/2024)

13. Mr Gordon Lei presented SSAC Paper No. 3/2024 on the proposed new specifications HKCA 1082 and HKCA 1083 for NR and AAS base stations respectively, which covered all relevant frequency bands for mobile services in Hong Kong.

14. The Chairman invited Members to provide further comments on the proposed new specifications HKCA 1082 and HKCA 1083, if any, by 19 February 2024.

Agenda Item 5: Any Other Business

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

**Office of the Communications Authority
February 2024**