

**RADIO SPECTRUM AND TECHNICAL STANDARDS
ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**Proposed Revocation of HKTA 1053 and HKTA 1054
Performance Specifications for Base Station, Repeater and Mobile Station
Equipment for Use in the Third Generation (3G) Mobile Communications
Services Employing CDMA2000 Spread Spectrum**

Purpose

This paper proposes the revocation of the following two specifications:

HKTA 1053 Issue 1	Performance Specification for Base Station and Repeater Equipment for Use in the Third Generation (3G) Mobile Communications Services Employing CDMA2000 Spread Spectrum
HKTA 1054 Issue 1	Performance Specification for Mobile Station for Use in the Third Generation (3G) Mobile Communications Services Employing CDMA2000 Spread Spectrum

Background

2. In 2008, 15 MHz of spectrum in the 825 – 832.5 MHz band paired with the 870 – 877.5 MHz band (“850 MHz Band”) was assigned to a mobile network operator (“MNO”) for provision of public mobile services employing specifically the CDMA2000 technology for a term of 15 years up to November 2023. In January 2021, the MNO proposed to voluntarily return the spectrum in the 850 MHz Band prior to the expiry of the term of assignment. Taking into account, inter alia, that there were no customers subscribing to CDMA2000 services provided by the MNO and no roaming services provided under signed agreements with overseas operators, the Communications Authority (“CA”) accepted the MNO’s proposal. In June 2021, the MNO returned the concerned spectrum and surrendered its relevant licence for the provision of CDMA2000 services upon approval granted by the CA. An auction was held and concluded

for assignment and re-assignment of various frequency bands, including the 850 MHz Band, in October 2021. At present, no CDMA2000 services are provided in Hong Kong.

3. The CA has been endeavouring to release more spectrum in different frequency bands to facilitate the development of 5G services in Hong Kong. The MNOs in Hong Kong have also been actively deploying 5G networks and at the same time transitioning their services from 2G/3G/4G to 5G¹. It is very unlikely that any MNOs in Hong Kong will revert to using the CDMA2000 technology which failed to gain popularity in 3G mobile markets globally.

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4. The HKTA 1053 specification sets out the performance requirements for base station and repeater equipment while the HKTA 1054 specification sets out those for mobile station equipment for use in the 3G mobile communications services employing CDMA2000 spread spectrum. Despite the technology neutral approach adopted by the CA, it is very unlikely that MNOs will opt to provide CDMA2000 services. As such, HKTA 1053 and HKTA 1054 as given in **Annex 1** and **Annex 2** respectively should no longer be required and therefore can be revoked.

Recommendation

5. It is recommended that the proposal for revocation of HKTA 1053 and HKTA 1054 be submitted to the CA for consideration.

Advice Sought

6. Members are invited to offer comments on the recommendation above.

Office of the Communications Authority
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¹ The technologies currently employed for the provision of public mobile services are GSM for 2G, Wideband CDMA (“WCDMA”) for 3G, LTE FDD and TD-LTE for 4G and New Radio (“NR”) for 5G.