



**DECISION AND EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM ON PROPOSED NUMBER  
AUCTION RULES AND ARRANGEMENT FOR PREFIX NUMBER '6' AND '8'**

**ISSUED ON 14 SEPTEMBER 2011**

**PART I: INTRODUCTION**

**PART II: IDA'S DECISION ON THE NUMBER AUCTION RULES AND  
ARRANGEMENT**

**PART III: AUCTION RULES FOR BIDDING OF NUMBER LEVELS FOR PUBLIC  
SWITCH TELEPHONE NETWORK ("PSTN") AND RADIO NETWORK  
SERVICES**

## **PART I: INTRODUCTION**

1. Based on the National Numbering Plan (“**NNP**”), IDA may make available a new pool of numbers for bidding by operators when any one of the following events first occurs:
  - a. When 20 or less number levels are left in the common pool; or
  - b. After a period of 36 months has elapsed since the completion of the previous bidding session.
2. On 5 July 2011, IDA conducted a public consultation on the “Proposed Number Auction Rules and Arrangement for prefix numbers ‘6’ and ‘8’” (“**Proposal**”), concerning the auction rules and arrangement. The consultation closed on 1 Aug 2011.
3. At the close of the consultation, IDA received comments from two respondents:
  - a. SingTel Group (which include, Singapore Telecommunications Ltd, SingTel Mobile Singapore Pte Ltd, SingNet Pte Ltd); and
  - b. StarHub Ltd.
4. IDA thanks all respondents for their inputs. IDA has given careful and extensive consideration to the views received. The sections below discuss the key issues raised during the consultation and set out IDA’s decision on the Number Auction Rules and Arrangement.

## **PART II: IDA’S DECISION ON THE NUMBER AUCTION RULES AND ARRANGEMENT**

5. IDA sought industry’s views in the July 2011 public consultation to ensure that IDA’s Proposal will be fair, appropriate and suitable for the coming number auction for prefix numbers ‘6’ and ‘8’. The respondents were generally supportive of IDA’s Proposal, but raised a few specific comments for IDA’s consideration.

### **Question 1: Whether IDA should conduct Number Auction for prefix number ‘3’?**

6. While one respondent did not provide any comment, the other agreed with IDA’s Proposal of not conducting number auction for prefix number ‘3’ due to its slow utilisation and the large amount of numbers left in the common number pool. Therefore, IDA will not open any new prefix number ‘3’ number level, in addition to the presently opened levels for auction. IDA will continue to allocate the presently opened level ‘3’ number sequentially on a first come, first served basis. If IDA is to open new prefix number ‘3’ number levels for allocation in the future, IDA will seek industry’s views and feedback to determine if an auction should be conducted.

**Question 2: Whether the proposed quantity of 100 new number levels for each prefix number is appropriate?**

7. One of the respondents did not have any comment, while the other respondent misinterpreted '100 number levels' for '100 numbers per block', and thus proposed not to change the amount of numbers within one number block.
8. Generally, numbers allocated to eligible telecommunication service providers for Fixed-line and Radio Networks are in blocks of 10,000 numbers per level as stated in para. 5.5.1 and para. 6.6.1 of the National Numbering Plan. IDA has no intention to change the amount of numbers (of 10,000) within a single level. Therefore, IDA considers that the respondents were supportive of IDA's proposal, to open up 100 number levels each time for auction.

**Question 3: Views and comments on the Proposal?**

9. While one respondent did not provide any comment on the Proposal, the other proposed to extend the notice period to inform eligible licensees regarding the Number Auction from fourteen (14) to twenty-eight (28) business days, to allow licensees to review their requirement for additional number levels and seek the necessary internal approvals for the bidding of such numbers.
10. IDA has considered the request and proposed to extend the notice period from fourteen (14) to twenty-one (21) business days, which is equivalent to almost one full calendar month. IDA believes a notice period of one month is sufficient for eligible telecommunication service providers to complete their business processes as fed back by the respondent.

## **PART III: AUCTION RULES FOR BIDDING OF NUMBER LEVELS FOR PUBLIC SWITCH TELEPHONE NETWORK (“PSTN”) AND RADIO NETWORK SERVICES**

### **1. Notification of Bidding Sessions**

- 1.1 IDA will inform licensees eligible for bidding of the details of the bidding sessions at least twenty-one (21) Business Days (all days excluding Saturday, Sunday and public holidays) prior to the bidding sessions. Details of the bidding sessions that will be provided include:
- (a) date;
  - (b) time;
  - (c) venue; and
  - (d) number levels available for bidding.
- 1.2 Licensees are required to confirm their attendance and participation at the bidding session(s) and to inform IDA of the names, NRIC or passport numbers and designations of the representatives who will be attending the bidding session(s). A maximum of three representatives will be allowed for each licensee (referred to as “**Bidder**” hereinafter).
- 1.3 IDA will conduct a briefing for all the Bidders, at least seven (7) days prior to the bidding sessions.

### **2. Registration**

- 2.1 For the purpose of registration, representatives from each Bidder shall complete the registration form as set out in Annex A and/or Annex B (as may be applicable), by the IDA specified date, and be given to IDA. The completed and signed forms must be delivered by hand or sent by fax to:
- Info-communications Development Authority of Singapore  
10 Pasir Panjang Road  
#10-01 Mapletree Business City  
Singapore 117438  
Facsimile No.: (65) 6659 2502  
For the attention of: Deputy Director-General (Telecoms and Post)
- 2.2 If the forms are delivered by hand, they will be deemed received by IDA when delivered. If sent by fax, they will be deemed received by IDA at the time of transmission (provided instantaneous confirmation of transmission is received by the sender). Where delivery occurs after 6.00 pm on a Business Day or on a day which is not a Business Day, receipt will be deemed to occur at 9.00 am on the following Business Day.
- 2.3 Bidders are advised to register at the auction centre at least 15 minutes before the start of the bidding session(s) on the day of bidding.

- 2.4 Authorised Representative(s) who participates in the Auction will need to produce their NRIC or passport for verification and registration against the information provided pursuant to Section 1.2 above.
- 2.5 Upon registration, each Bidder will be given one bidding card bearing a unique number.
- 2.6 The bidding sessions shall commence at the scheduled time. Representatives who arrive after the scheduled time may participate in the bidding session(s) upon registration.

### **3. Opening Statement**

- 3.1 IDA will give an opening statement and highlight any logistic arrangement before the start of the actual bidding.

### **4. Bidding Procedures**

- 4.1 An auctioneer appointed by IDA (the “**Auctioneer**”) will auction the number levels sequentially. At the beginning of bidding for each number level, the Auctioneer will announce the number level, “ABCD XXXX” made available for bidding and the starting bid price for the said number level (i.e. S\$25,000).
- 4.2 If Bidders are interested to bid for any particular number level, they shall raise their bidding cards above their heads.
- 4.3 If there is more than one Bidder for a particular number level at any one time, the Auctioneer will increase the bid price by S\$5,000.
- 4.4 The bidding process described in Sections 4.2 to 4.3 will repeat until only one interested Bidder remains.
- 4.5 Where there is only one interested Bidder for any number level and in the absence of bidding for 20 seconds from the last bid, the Auctioneer shall close the bidding for that number level, by announcing:
  - (a) S\$YYY going once;
  - (b) S\$YYY going twice; and
  - (c) Bidding for number level “ABCD XXXX” is closed.

Bidding for the number level may continue so long as there is a second interested Bidder for that number level and the Bidder raises his or her bidding card above his head prior to the Auctioneer’s announcement in paragraph 4.5(c) as set out above.

- 4.6 In the event where there is a tie in bids (i.e. none of the multiple Bidders at a particular bid price are willing to offer the next higher bid with an increment of S\$5,000), the Auctioneer shall, at his discretion, set a smaller increment in the bidding price for, e.g., increments of S\$2,500 or S\$1,000 (instead of S\$5,000), and allow the bidding to proceed.
- (a) If there are more than one Bidder at the new bid price, the Auctioneer will continue, until there is a successful bid for the number level, by increasing the bid price based on smaller increments as set by the Auctioneer.
  - (b) If a tie occurs despite the reduction in increment in the bid price, the Auctioneer will conduct a random draw to determine which of the parties who offer the same bid price will be allocated the number level. The number level will be allocated at the tied bid price.
- 4.7 For every S\$50,000 increase in bid price, a recess of 5 to 10 minutes may be provided, if desired by any of the Bidders.
- 4.8 If there is no bid at the starting bid price for a particular number level, that number level will be withdrawn from the Auction.
- 4.9 Should the bidding session extend beyond 30 minutes from the end time of each session, such end time to be announced to the Bidders at the briefing, IDA reserves the right to suspend the bidding session until such time and date as IDA may determine.

## **5. Restarting the Bidding Session**

- 5.1 Without prejudice to Section 4.9, if at any time before or during the bidding session, IDA considers it necessary to cancel, suspend or abandon bidding for any number level(s) due to any circumstance, IDA will notify all Bidders:
- (a) that such bidding will not proceed or will be suspended or abandoned (as the case may be); and
  - (b) of the time at which such bidding will be restarted.
- 5.2 When IDA has notified Bidders that bidding for any number level(s) will be abandoned after its commencement, it will be restarted as if bidding for that / those number level(s) had not taken place.
- 5.3 In the event that IDA determines to restart the bidding session, any excluded Bidder(s) will not be entitled to participate in the bidding session or any restart of the bidding session.

## **6. Collusion, Disclosure of Information, Misleading or False Information and Connected Persons**

- 6.1 Before and during the bidding sessions, no Bidder may collude or attempt to collude with any other Bidder(s) in an attempt to influence the proceedings or results of the bidding session(s) or any allocation of the number level(s). Each Bidder shall remain bound by the provisions of this Section 6.1 until the close of all the bidding sessions.
- 6.2 If IDA determines that any Bidder has colluded, attempted to collude, or is colluding with any other Bidder(s), such Bidder will upon notification by IDA be excluded from the bidding session(s) and may not participate, or participate further, in the bidding session(s) or any restart of the bidding session(s).
- 6.3 If IDA does not become aware of any breach of Section 6.1 until after the allocation of the number level(s) or the close of all the bidding sessions, and any Bidder considered by IDA to have been involved in such breach was allocated number level(s), then if IDA in its sole discretion determines fit and appropriate, the allocation of the number level(s) will be revoked.
- 6.4 No Bidder will submit any document attached thereto, or any document submitted in response to a request for clarification from IDA or any information to IDA, which contains any information which the Bidder knows to be, or has reason to believe may be, false or misleading.
- 6.5 Any person who is an employee of a Bidder or a member of a Bidder's Group and who is also an employee of one or more other Bidders or other Bidders' Group(s) (for the purpose of this Section 6, a "**Connected Person**") will be excluded from participating, directly or indirectly, in the bidding sessions. Each Bidder is obliged to ensure that:
- (a) any Connected Person is not in any way involved in the Bidder's preparation for, or participation in, the bidding sessions; and
  - (b) no Connected Person is an authorised representative of the Bidder.

## **7. IDA's discretionary powers and disclaimers**

- 7.1 Notwithstanding any other provision in these auction rules, IDA may at any time:
- (a) change any of the times or dates and/or shorten or extend any of the time periods referred to in or determined pursuant to these auction rules, provided that IDA will give all Bidders at least twenty-four hours' notice of any such change, save in emergency situations where such changes may be made without notice;

- (b) delay, cancel or suspend the bidding session(s) if in the opinion of IDA this is in the public interest; and/or
  - (c) amend, supplement and/or vary these auction rules, provided that any such amendment, supplement and variation are made at least three (3) days prior to the bidding sessions, and the registered bidders are informed by IDA of such amendment, supplement and variation.
- 7.2 IDA will have sole discretion in making any determination pursuant to these auction rules and may take into account all or any facts, circumstances or matters which it considers to be relevant.
- 7.3 For avoidance of doubt, IDA is not bound by any determination made pursuant to these auction rules to make a similar determination in future allocation of number levels. All determinations by IDA will be based on its policy objectives and on the facts at that point in time.
- 7.4 Any person participating in the bidding session(s) must take all necessary steps to carefully examine and acquaint themselves with these auction rules. The submission of the registration form as set out in the Annexes in accordance with Section 2.1(a) shall be deemed to constitute such person's acknowledgement of, and agreement to abide by, these auction rules.
- 7.5 Payment for the bidding price for the successfully bid number levels must be made to IDA within seven (7) working days from the date of the bidding sessions. Any number level successfully bid will only be considered allocated to the relevant Bidder upon payment of the bid price and any GST that may be payable on the bid price. In the event the Bidder refuses to or fails to pay the full amount of its bidding price to IDA upon its successful bid(s) within seven (7) working days from the bidding session, IDA may, in addition to any other remedy available to IDA, bar the Bidder from participating in future bidding session(s) of number levels for a period of up to 24 months and/or refuse to allocate the Bidder any number levels for a period of up to 12 months as may be determined by IDA.
- 7.6 No Bidder shall transfer to any persons, including other Bidders, any number levels that are successfully bid for and allocated to the Bidder without IDA's approval.
- 7.7 IDA shall not be liable in any respect in relation to any claims or disputes arising from the conduct of the bidding session(s).

## **8. Communications and Notifications**

- 8.1 Any notification or other communication to be given to IDA by a Bidder must be in writing and signed by or on behalf of the person giving it and must be delivered by hand or sent by fax to:



Info-communications Development Authority of Singapore  
10 Pasir Panjang Road  
#10-01 Mapletree Business City  
Singapore 117438  
Facsimile No.: (65) 6659 2502  
For the attention of: Deputy Director-General (Telecoms and Post)

Any such notification or other communication:

- (a) if delivered by hand, will be deemed received by IDA when delivered; and/or
- (b) if sent by fax, will be deemed received by IDA at the time of transmission (provided instantaneous confirmation of transmission is received by the sender),

provided that where delivery occurs after 6.00 pm on a Business Day or on a day which is not a Business Day, receipt will be deemed to occur at 9.00 am on the following Business Day.

## **9. Duty to Inform IDA**

- 9.1 If at any time during the bidding session(s), a Bidder knows or ought reasonably to have known that IDA has made an error with regard to a bid or other information communicated to one or more Bidders, the Bidder will inform IDA of the error at the earliest opportunity.