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MEDIA FACTSHEET

Next Gen Nationwide Broadband Network

Singapore will continue to invest in Next Generation infocomm infrastructure and ensure that we optimise the use of our Next Generation infrastructure. IDA will also foster the creation of innovative services over Next Gen infrastructure and see to the adoption of infocomm by the wider population, towards a digitally-inclusive society.

Next Gen NBN will ready Singapore for an infocomm-enabled future

The Next Gen NBN will offer pervasive, competitively priced ultra-high broadband speeds of up to 1 Gbps and beyond to business users at the workplace, as well as to Singaporeans at home, schools and learning institutions, and other premises.

The rollout of the Next Gen NBN, which commenced in July 2009, is on track to achieve 60 per cent coverage by the end of this year, and 95 per cent by mid-2012. As at end-February 2010, the Next Gen NBN has covered more than 20 per cent of all homes and offices.

The Next Gen NBN is expected to create a more vibrant broadband services market by providing an Open Access, Ultra-High Speed and affordable infrastructure for Retail Service Providers (or RSPs) to access their customers and businesses.

Some Next Gen Services that could be enabled include interactive High Definition IPTV, personalised healthcare, online learning and education, as well as homeshoring (eg setting up of home office).

Selection of Next Gen NBN NetCo and OpCo

The Next Gen Nationwide Broadband Network comprises three key conceptual industry layers, the Network Company (Next Gen NBN NetCo), the Operating Company (Next Gen NBN OpCo) and the Retail Service Providers (RSPs). The Next Gen NBN NetCo is responsible for the design, build and operation of the passive infrastructure layer. The Next Gen NBN Operating Company will be responsible for the design, build and operation of the active infrastructure to provide wholesale broadband connectivity to Retail Service Providers, the downstream operators.

 The Next Gen NBN NetCo and OpCo Request-for-Proposals (RFP) were issued on 11 December 2007 and 7 April 2008 respectively. The Next Gen NBN NetCo RFP closed on 5 May 2008 with submissions from Infinity Consortium and OpenNet Consortium. IDA announced the selection of the OpenNet consortium as the Next Gen NBN NetCo on 26 September 2008.

At the close of Next Gen NBN OpCo RFP on 5 December 08, IDA received bid proposals from Intellinet Consortium, MobileOne Ltd, Singapore Telecommunications Ltd and StarHub. IDA announced the selection of StarHub's OpCo proposal on 3 April 2009. StarHub has established the Next Gen NBN OpCo, named Nucleus Connect, who will work together with OpenNet on a coordinated nationwide rollout of the network.

The Government has committed $1 billion dollars to this project. This will in turn spur further private investments from OpenNet and Nucleus Connect and other investments from RSPs.

Deployment to Homes Started Aug 2009

As part of the rollout of the Next Gen NBN, OpenNet is contacting home owners to bring the fibre into their homes. To encourage home owners to connect their homes to the network, OpenNet will waive installation charges for home owners when the network first reaches their building for the first 15m of fibre run within the home.

From mid-August 2009, residents in Singapore started receiving notification letters from OpenNet informing them about the fibre installation. Installation for the first batch of homes signed up took place in September 2009 and has since been ongoing. OpenNet is contacting residents progressively in line with its rollout of the Next Gen NBN, and home owners are encouraged to sign up for installation when they receive OpenNet's notification letter.

Next Gen Innovation Centres (NGICS) Programme, Next Gen Services Innovation Programme (NGSIP) and Next Gen Interactive Multimedia, Applications and Services (NIMS)

Beyond infrastructure deployment, IDA has developed an overall strategy that focuses on catalysing the delivery and adoption, and spurring the demand for services on the Next Gen NBN. The strategy aims to achieve impactful services deployment that maximise the economic and social benefits from the new all-fibre network. An important guiding principle of the strategy will be to ensure the direct engagement and involvement of the public, private and people sectors for a comprehensive and inclusive approach.

To boost the ease of delivery and adoption of new services, IDA will:
- Facilitate the setting up of Next Gen Innovation Centres (NGICs) to enable the conceptualisation and test-bedding of innovative next generation services.
- Set up a Next Generation Services Innovation Programme (NGSIP) to quicken the deployment of impactful and meaningful next gen services

Next Gen Innovation Centres (NGICs): These are physical centres that will bring end-users from private, people and public sectors to work together with technology and service providers to create next generation services that meet end users' needs. By going to a NGIC, local companies can better focus on the development and delivery of next gen services that meet market needs. At these centres, RSPs can also get technical and business guidance to conceptualise, develop and prototype next generation services.

The first NGIC, Cisco's Enabling Platform Innovation Centre (EPIC) is dedicated to bring various players from across an industry ecosystem, from end-users to service providers, to help conceptualise, create and deploy next generation services to meet public and enterprise needs. The second NGIC, Oracle's E-FIT was launched in 2009, is dedicated to looking at Made-in-Singapore next gen services, along with efforts to boost industry and manpower development.

Next Gen Services Innovation Programme (NGSIP): IDA launched this programme in the second half of 2009, as part of its larger efforts to develop a thriving retail services layer that leverages the Next Gen NBN, and to support the deployment of innovative and impactful next generation broadband services for the nation to adopt. Through this programme, IDA invites interested industry players, both local and foreign providers and enterprises, to also use Singapore as their centre of excellence for Next Gen services.

Through the first Call-for-Proposal, IDA has received 18 proposals from interested RSPs and Application Service Providers (ASPs). The awarded proposals are expected to be available to businesses and consumers that are connected to Next Gen NBN from second half of 2010. Examples of such services include Software-as-a-Service, high-definition video conferencing, interactive multimedia kiosks, remote storage-as-a-service and 3D digital signages. The second Call-for-Proposal will be launched later this year and IDA expects to support the deployment of more innovative and impactful next generation broadband services.

Next Gen Interactive Multimedia, Applications and Services (NIMS) Programme: With deployment of the ultra-high speed Next Gen NBN, end-users and businesses can expect richer, more immersive and video-based applications and services. IDA and MDA are therefore working together with the industry to develop a vibrant ecosystem that will promote the development and delivery of such next generation interactive, multimedia applications and services (NIMS) over the Next Gen NBN infrastructure. One of the applications, next generation interactive IPTV, is expected to be an important service delivered over Next Gen NBN that will bring significant benefits to end-users and the industry.

Through an open access NIMS ecosystem, end-users can expect to enjoy a larger choice of interactive content and applications. An open access NIMS ecosystem will also enable the delivery of innovative nationwide services, such as smart energy monitoring, personalised healthcare and interactive learning. NIMS will also support Government agencies in the delivery of next generation e-services to the public.

With Project NIMS, IDA and MDA are formulating strategies to develop the necessary capabilities, infrastructure and industry to foster an open access NIMS ecosystem. IDA and MDA have identified open access common featured set-top boxes (NIMS open access CF STB) for such next generation IPTV deployment as an important element to achieve this desired outcome.

A NIMS Panel, which is co-chaired by IDA and MDA and comprised of industry representatives, was established in February 2010. The NIMS Panel will recommend a standard to be adopted for the deployment of these NIMS open

access CF STBs. Besides enhanced capability to support richer and more interactive applications and services, the NIMS open access CF STBs are expected to support greater interoperability amongst IPTV operators. The NIMS Panel targets to make a preliminary recommendation by 3Q 2010.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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