

FACT SHEET

Updates to the Next Generation National Infocomm Infrastructure

(A) Next Generation National Infocomm Infrastructure

The Next Generation National Infocomm Infrastructure (Next Gen NII) is Singapore's new digital super-highway for super-connectivity. It will entrench Singapore's Infocomm hub status and open the doors to new business and social growth for the country. Next Gen NII comprises complementary wired and wireless networks to ensure Singaporeans enjoy seamless connectivity.

The wired broadband network or Next Generation National Broadband Network (Next Gen NBN) will deliver ultra-high broadband symmetric speeds of 1Gbps and above, to all homes, offices and schools, while the Wireless Broadband Network (WBN) will offer pervasive connectivity around Singapore.

This infrastructure was announced by Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong in February 2006. In line with the Government philosophy of public-private partnership, the Infocomm Development Authority (IDA) of Singapore launched a Request-For-Concept (RFC) for Next Gen NBN and a Wireless Broadband Market Development Call-For-Collaboration (CFC) to set in motion the deployment of Singapore's Next Generation National Infocomm Infrastructure.

(B) Next Generation National Broadband Network Request-For-Concept

ABOUT THE RFC

IDA announced the Next Gen NBN RFC on 23 March 2006. The aim of the RFC was to solicit industry inputs to shape the Next Gen NBN initiative. The RFC closed on 15 June 2006 with a total of 33 submissions received from both local and international telcos, hardware and software providers among others.

OVERVIEW OF SUBMISSIONS

The RFC called for inputs in the areas of network capability, interconnection issues, market coverage, possible rollout strategies; and construction and installation techniques.

The submissions affirm Singapore's proposed approach for the Next Gen NBN infrastructure – the government's catalytic role and that the infrastructure should be open access. The submissions suggest fibre as the solution of choice to provide ultra-high speed broadband access of 1Gbps and above, describing it as future-proof and best serving the strategic objectives of the Next Gen NII initiative.

The submissions also offered innovative business models for consideration to help Singapore enjoy one of the lowest broadband prices in the world and encourage an exciting host of new broadband-enabled services and applications. These include immersive learning experiences, telemedicine, high definition TV, immersive video conferencing and grid computing.

LIST OF NEXT GEN NBN RFC SUBMISSIONS

No.	Company
1	3M Technologies (S) Pte Ltd
2	ADC Telecommunications
3	Alcatel Singapore Pte Ltd
4	Axia Netmedia Corporation
5	Caspian Networks, Inc
6	Cisco Systems (USA) Pte Ltd
7	Corning Cable Systems Pty Ltd
8	Datacraft (Singapore) Pte Ltd
9	Emtelle Asia Pacific (M) Sdn Bhd
10	Exfo Asia Pacific Pte Ltd
11	Huawei Technologies Co. Ltd, Singapore Representative Office
12	Hutchison Global Communications Ltd
13	LS Cable Limited, Singapore Branch Office
14	Lucent Technologies Inc
15	M1 Ltd and BlueTel Pte Ltd
16	Motorola Inc
17	NEC Solutions Asia Pacific Pte Ltd
18	Nippon Telephone and Telegraph West Corporation
19	Pacific Internet Corporation
20	Reliance Communications
21	Siemens Communications
22	Singapore Computer Systems Ltd
23	Singapore Telecommunications Ltd
24	Skycom Satellite Systems Pte Ltd
25	SMRT Engineering Pte Ltd
26	StarHub Ltd
27	ST Electronics (Info-Comm Systems) Pte Ltd
28	STELOP Pte Ltd
29	Taihan Electric Wire Co. Ltd
30	T-Systems Singapore Pte Ltd
31	UTStarcom Telecom Co. Ltd
32	Videsh Sanchar Nigam Ltd (VSNL)
33	VPISystems Inc

WHAT'S NEXT

IDA will now study the inputs from the RFC for consideration in the detailed specifications of the subsequent Request-For-Proposal (RFP) of the Next Gen NBN. IDA expects to launch the Next Gen NBN RFP by end of the year.

(C) Wireless Broadband Market Development Call-For-Collaboration

ABOUT THE CFC

The Wireless Broadband Market Development (WBMD) Call-For-Collaboration (CFC) was launched on 9 March 2006. Through the CFC, IDA invited interested operators and service providers to submit proposals for the deployment of wireless broadband coverage in catchment areas in three (North, East & West) geographic regions in Singapore. These catchment areas include the Central Business District, major shopping belts and residential town centres. The CFC closed on 12 June 2006 with nine submissions.

AIM

- Accelerate the deployment of wireless broadband by providing coverage in locations where users on-the-move can conveniently access wireless broadband services using data-centric infocomm devices.
- Catalyse the demand for wireless broadband services.

OVERVIEW OF SUBMISSIONS

- Wireless broadband services to be made available at major commercial hubs and residential town centres island wide.
- Proposals to provide free basic 512kbps wireless broadband services to the public for the first year.
- Speeds of 1Mbps or more available to paid subscribers.
- Network proposed to be deployed using technologies such as WiFi, WiMax and HSDPA in various combinations.
- Users to be able to enjoy enhanced mobility services including voice-over-IP, video conferencing, online gaming and location-based services.

LIST OF WBMD CFC SUBMISSIONS

No.	Company
1	Bluengine Asia Pacific Pte Ltd
2	iCell Network Pte Ltd
3	MobileOne Ltd
4	Pacific Internet Ltd
5	Pacific Mediacom Pte Ltd
6	Qmax Communications Pte Ltd
7	Singapore Telecommunications Ltd
8	StarHub Mobile Pte Ltd
9	Zaienta Singapore Pte Ltd

EVALUATION CRITERIA

An Evaluation Committee has been set up to assess the submissions and award the CFC based on their merit. The following criteria will be used:

- Qualification of the Participant to complete the Project
- Compliance to the required Specifications of the CFC (Operating model, Coverage, Usage and Access; and Network reliability and security)
- Network coverage areas beyond the Primary Catchment Areas within the three, East, West and North, regions
- Number of users; and
- Amount of funding required by the Participant

WHEN TO EXPECT

The winning proposal(s) will be selected and awarded by September 2006. Singapore can look forward to the launch of commercial services from December 2006.

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