

IDA'S DECISION ON POLICY APPROACH TO 3G INFRASTRUCTURE SHARING IN SINGAPORE

1. IDA will, for the time being, not consider 3G infrastructure sharing in view of industry feedback to IDA's consultation paper on the proposed policy approach to 3G infrastructure sharing in Singapore. This decision takes into account industry views and comments on the difficulties and limited scope associated with such infrastructure sharing initiatives in Singapore's context.
2. The Consultation exercise also generated industry comments on the 3G nationwide rollout deadline. Some industry players suggested to delay or remove IDA's current 31 December 2004 deadline imposed on 3G licensees to achieve nationwide rollout of 3G networks and services, and cited worldwide delays and challenges in implementing 3G as considerations.
3. However, IDA has also monitored closely developments in overseas markets, particularly leading countries in mobile communications (European and Scandinavian). IDA notes that these countries have maintained their 3G rollout requirements. In addition, a number of their telco operators have also since deployed 3G networks or are on schedule to meet their deployment requirements in accordance with the deadlines set, which are prior to 31 December 2004. IDA will therefore maintain its 31 December 2004 nationwide rollout for its 3G licensees.
4. IDA thanks all respondents for their comments and will continue to monitor market developments. Details of the consultation paper and industry comments can be obtained from the IDA website, <http://www.ida.gov.sg>, under its section on 'Policy and Regulation'.

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