

NOTICE ON THE REVIEW OF SINGAPORE TELECOMMUNICATION LIMITED'S REFERENCE INTERCONNECTION OFFER

1. On 18 June 2003, IDA issued a consultation paper titled "Review of Singapore Telecommunication Limited's Reference Interconnection Offer", to elicit public comments in connection with IDA's review of SingTel's RIO. At the close of the public consultation on 15 July 2003, IDA received comments from 7 operators and 2 private individuals. IDA would like to thank those who have submitted comments.
2. During the consultation, IDA received comments that, as the Telecom Competition Code ("Code") is due for its triennial review this year, any review of SingTel's RIO should only take place after IDA has reviewed SingTel's RIO obligations under the Code. On the other hand, some licensees called for IDA to proceed to review SingTel's RIO.
3. Having carefully considered these comments, IDA believes it will better serve the industry's interest if the current review of SingTel's RIO is completed after IDA concludes the first triennial review of the Code. The reason is many of the substantive comments¹ received from the industry during the public consultation relate to SingTel's RIO obligations set out in the Code. Therefore, amendments to the SingTel RIO can only be made after reviewing and amending the Code. In the interim, SingTel's RIO, which is based on the current Code, will continue to be in effect until modified by IDA following the first triennial review of the Code. IDA takes the view that the RIO continues to be relevant and critical in ensuring seamless any-to-any connectivity between operators and in facilitating entry to the telecommunications market in Singapore. For this purpose, SingTel's RIO will remain valid for another 3 years from 29 September 2003 to 28 September 2006. With this decision, all RIO agreements signed with SingTel will continue to be in force, and prices, terms and conditions will remain valid until this is reviewed and modified by IDA after the Code review. For new licensees that are interested to enter into RIO agreements with SingTel, the RIO will continue to be available for the next three years.
4. IDA expects to initiate the first triennial review of the Code shortly (during the 4th quarter of 2003). Where IDA has already received comments in response to the 18 June 2003 RIO review consultation paper, IDA will consider these comments together with the review of the Code. IDA expects the revised Code to be issued by the first half of 2004 and thereby completes the RIO review by the second half of 2004.

¹ These include: the ability for SBOs to lease interconnection links from other FBOs rather than SingTel for virtual interconnection arrangement; the minimum performance specifications for unbundled local loop and line sharing to support xDSL service; the removal of SingTel's obligation to provide co-location at its satellite earth stations and tower sites.