



SINGAPORE TELECOMMUNICATIONS LIMITED

RESPONSE TO THE CONSULTATION ON INCORPORATING COMMON DUCT NETWORK AS AN INTERCONNECTION RELATED SERVICE

1. The Singapore Telecommunications Limited (**Singtel**) submission in response to the Consultation Paper is structured as follows:
 - Background & Statement of Interest
 - Executive Summary
 - Specific Comments
 - Conclusion
2. Where terms used in this submission are defined in the Consultation Paper and the Code of Practice for Competition in the Provision of Telecommunication Services 2012 (the **Telecom Competition Code**), they have the same meaning in this submission.

Background & Statement of Interest

3. The Singtel group provides a comprehensive portfolio of services that include voice, data and internet services to both enterprise and residential customers across Singapore over a variety of platforms including the Next Generation Nationwide Broadband Network (**NGNBN**).
4. As a Dominant Licensee who is required to offer Interconnection Related Services to Requesting Licensees pursuant to the Singtel Reference Interconnection Offer (**RIO**), Singtel has strong interest in the IMDA's Consultation Paper.

Executive Summary

5. Singtel makes the following key points in this submission:
- (i) The IMDA should designate the 9-way duct network constructed along the north-bound side of Tuas South Boulevard Extension (**Tuas 9-way CDN**) as an Mandated Wholesale Service (**MWS**) under the Telecom Competition Code;
 - (ii) The IMDA should designate all Common Duct Networks as MWS; and
 - (iii) The IMDA should only modify the Telecom Competition Code to designate the Tuas 9-way CDN as an MWS after the execution of the relevant and necessary agreement between the IMDA and Singtel (**Construction Agreement**).

Specific Comments

The IMDA should designate the Tuas 9-way CDN as an MWS under the Telecom Competition Code

6. Singtel submits that the 9-way duct network constructed along the north-bound side of Tuas South Boulevard Extension is not an Essential Support Facilities (**ESF**) pursuant to the Telecom Competition code. A passive infrastructure may be designated as an ESF where no practical or viable alternatives exist that enable the deployment of telecommunication infrastructure. The IMDA is aware that there are currently extensive land reclamation works planned at the Tuas South Region and is in discussion with its Licensee(s) regarding the construction of an alternative duct network on the other side of the road along the south-bound side of Tuas South Boulevard Extension. Clearly, the Tuas 9-way CDN does not meet the criteria to be designated as an ESF.
7. In contrast, MWS are services that are necessary inputs for the provision of competitive Services in Singapore and providing the services will be sufficiently costly or difficult that requiring other Licensee(s) to do so would create a significant barrier to the provision of competitive Services in Singapore by an efficient competitor. The IMDA should instead modify the Telecom Competition Code to designate the Tuas 9-way CDN as a MWS to be offered under the Singtel's Reference Interconnection Offer.

The IMDA should designate all Common Duct Networks as MWS

8. In the consultation paper, the IMDA stated that:

*“To optimise the utilisation of the limited space from the Tuas South landing site to inland Singapore and for greater efficiency such as minimising disruptions from road opening works, there is a need for a common set of ducts (the “**Common Duct Network**” or “**CDN**”) to be built to cater for current and future demand by submarine cable operators to bring submarine cables from the BMH to the inland termination points in the Tuas South area or beyond (“**Tuas 9-way CDN**”)” [emphasis added]*

9. Currently the IMDA is also in discussion with various Licensees over the construction of other CDN networks such as [**Commercial in Confidence**] around Singapore. The Tuas 9-way CDN will not be the only CDN to be constructed and be required to share.
10. Given the arrangement and principle for sharing will be different for different CDNs, it is thus appropriate and necessary for the IMDA to modify the Telecom Competition Code to designate all CDNs as MWS.

The IMDA should only modify the Telecom Competition Code to designate the Tuas 9-way CDN as an MWS after the execution of the Construction Agreement

11. As the IMDA is aware, both the IMDA and Singtel are currently in negotiation over the [**Commercial in Confidence**] and the Construction Agreement. Subject to the terms of the Construction Agreement, Singtel will construct and share the Tuas 9-way CDN with Facilities-Based Operators (**FBOs**); and the FBOs will be able to access the Tuas 9-way CDN through Singtel at certain price and non-price terms and conditions.
12. Singtel submits that it is too premature for the IMDA to modify the Telecom Competition Code to designate the Tuas 9-way CDN as an MWS given that both parties have yet to finalise the Construction Agreement. The IMDA should only designate the Tuas 9-way CDN as an MWS under the Telecom Competition Code after the execution of the Construction Agreement between the IMDA and Singtel.



Conclusion

13. In conclusion, Singtel submits that:

- (i) The IMDA should designate the Tuas 9-way CDN as an MWS under the Telecom Competition Code;
- (ii) The IMDA should designate all Common Duct Networks as MWS; and
- (iii) The IMDA should only modify the Telecom Competition Code to designate the Tuas 9-way CDN as an MWS after the execution of the Construction Agreement between the IMDA and Singtel.