iDA
SINGAPORE

June 2008

FACT SHEET

Updates on Singapore's 10 Year Infocomm Masterplan - Intelligent Nation 2015 (iN2015)

SECTION (1): iN2015 – HIGHLIGHTS AT A GLANCE

iN2015 KEY THRUSTS	HIGHLIGHTS
Infrastructure Development	• Wireless@SG, launched in December 2006, met and exceeded its rollout target of 5,000 hot spots by September 2007. Today, there are more than 7,200 hotspots serving some 850,000 subscribers. • The Requests-for-Proposal for the Next Generation National Broadband Network Network Company (NetCo) and the Operating Company (OpCo) have been issued. Two consortia submitted bids to be the NetCo, while 11 consortium leads have been qualified for the OpCo RFP.
Enterprise Development	• Infocomm industry revenue increased 13.8 per cent to S$51.68 billion in 2007, with export revenue accounting for S$33.56 billion. • The Infocomm Singapore portal (www.infocommsingapore.sg), a virtual storefront for local enterprises, has more than 400 registered members
Manpower Development	• Total infocomm manpower increased from 119,700 in 2006 to 130,400 in 2007. • 150 schools have Infocomm Clubs. In 2007, 39 National Infocomm Scholarships were awarded, bringing a total of 107 since 2004.
Cluster Transformation	• <u>Finance:</u> The public and private sectors are jointly developing guidelines for interoperable Near Field Communications for mobile payment. • <u>Education:</u> Four consortia were selected under a S$80 million Call-For-Collaboration to develop technologies for next generation learning for the first five FutureSchools. • <u>Healthcare:</u> A S$3 million Call-For-Collaboration saw infocomm industry and healthcare institutions work together on innovative healthcare products and solutions. Seven projects have been selected and awarded under the CFC. • <u>Digital Media & Entertainment:</u> The Digital Marketplace and Connected Games are two newly-launched programmes that will contribute to the sector's growth • <u>Tourism, Hospitality & Retail:</u> Digital Concierge pilot launched in 2007 provided more than 6,000 tourists and Singaporeans with mobile services such as personalised food recommendations and maps. • <u>Trade and Manufacturing:</u> The S$12 million Infocomm@SeaPort was launched in September 2007, providing wireless broadband network within 15km from Singapore's southern coastline. Five companies have been selected to develop innovative content and applications for this wireless initiative. • <u>E-Govt:</u> To date, more than 200 government services can be delivered via the mobile channel. IDA, which is leading the development of a Standard ICT Operating Environment for the public sector, awarded the S$1.3 billion SOEasy tender in end February 2008.
Bridging Digital Divide	• To date, the NEU PC and NEU PC Plus programmes collectively have benefited more than 25,000 households whose gross monthly household income is less than S$2,000. Since November 2007, the senior citizen outreach programme, Silver Infocomm Initiative, has helped some 2,000 elderly folk attain basic IT skills.

iN2015< IMAGINE YOUR WORLD

SECTION (2): iN2015

BACKGROUND – WHAT IS INTELLIGENT NATION 2015 (iN2015)

- iN2015 is Singapore's 10-year infocomm masterplan that was launched in June 2006. It holds a bold vision - to transform the country into an intelligent nation and global city powered by infocomm. It recommends the way forward for Singapore, into a future where infocomm will revolutionise and become intrinsic in the way people live, learn, work and play. New possibilities will be unleashed for Singapore's industries, economy, and society, empowered by next-era technologies.

  Led by the IDA, iN2015 is a multi-agency effort that engages the people, private, and public sectors.

CONTRIBUTING TO INFOCOMM BUZZ

- Since the launch of iN2015 in June 2006, the infocomm sector in Singapore has become more vibrant. Some snapshot figures:
  - Infocomm industry revenue grew by 13.8 per cent to hit S$51.68 billion in 2007.
  - The infocomm export market experienced a growth of 15.8 per cent to hit S$33.56 billion in 2007.
  - Infocomm manpower increased by 8.9 per cent from 119,700 in 2006 to 130,400 in 2007.
  - Almost all enterprises (with 200 employees or more) have established Web presence, as well as used the internet and broadband in 2007.
  - 92 per cent of homes with school-going children own computers in 2007.

- Similarly, the telecoms sector in 2007 experienced greater buzz, as follows:
  - Basic broadband plans (512kbps, unlimited) are available for as low as S$24.56 (as of April 2008).
  - Full Mobile Number Portability came into effect from 13 June 2008
  - As of April 2008, 82.5 per cent of homes in Singapore are using broadband.
  - Mobile phone penetration is at 130.6 per cent in April 2008.
  - 3G subscriptions have reached about 1.99 million in April 2008.

SECTION (3): POWERING THE ECONOMY

REALISING THE VISION
The iN2015 masterplan is being rolled out along four strategic thrusts, with updates as follow:

STRATEGIC THRUST (1)
Establish an ultra-high speed, pervasive, intelligent and trusted infocomm infrastructure

➢ To prepare Singapore for even greater digital opportunities from 2015, Singapore's Next Generation National Infocomm Infrastructure will comprise a wired network that will provide individuals with ultra-high broadband access speeds of 1Gbps in every home, school and business, and a high-speed, pervasive wireless network for connectivity everywhere else, islandwide.

UPDATE – A FUTURE-PROOF INFOCOMM INFRASTRUCTURE

- **Wireless@SG** – Wireless@SG launched its services in December 2006 with the aim of extending broadband access beyond homes, schools and offices to public places. Wireless@SG is available in high human-traffic areas such as at the Changi International Airport, Central Business District, downtown shopping belts like Orchard Road and residential town centres. The Wireless@SG operators are constantly looking for ways to enhance the network, including offering more services and exploring innovative applications that could ride on the network.

  Numbers to Note:
  ➢ The number of Wireless@SG hotspots in Singapore has increased by about 12 times, from 600 to about 7,200 in April 2008. The original target for the programme was for 5,000 hot spots.

  ➢ The number of Wireless@SG subscribers has exceeded the original target of 250,000, and continues to grow by about 40,000 new subscribers every month. As of April 2008, there are more than 850,000 subscribers.

  ➢ Wireless@SG users have been clocking longer hours of usage - from an average of 2.1 hours per month in December 2006, to almost 3 hours per user per month today. Users commonly access the network for e-mails, Instant Messaging, blogging and visiting social networking sites.

- **Next Generation National Broadband Network (Next Gen NBN)** - The Next Gen NBN will ready Singapore for an infocomm-enabled future. It will offer pervasive, competitively priced ultra-high broadband speeds of up to 1Gbps and beyond to business users at the workplace, as well as to Singaporeans at home, schools and learning institutions, and other premises. In December 2007, IDA announced that it envisaged the Next Gen NBN to comprise three key conceptual industry layers: the Next Gen NBN Network Company (NetCo), the Next Gen NBN Operating Company (OpCo), and downstream operators such as Retail Service Providers. The Next Gen NBN NetCo and OpCo Request-for-Proposals (RFP) were issued on 11 December 2007 and 7 April 2008 respectively. At the close of the Next Gen NBN NetCo RFP on 5 May 2008, IDA received bids from Infinity Consortium and OpenNet Consortium, comprising both local and foreign companies. IDA is now evaluating the submissions and expects to appoint the Next Gen NBN NetCo in the third quarter of 2008.

  Numbers to Note:
  - ➤ Next Gen NBN will be available to all homes and businesses by 2015.

  (Please refer to Fact Sheet on Next Gen NII for more details)

  National Trust Framework – This was announced alongside the Next Gen NII in June 2006 to address identity, security and privacy issues. One of the projects rolled out last year was the Cyber-Watch Centre (CWC) - one of the first in Asia. Operational since March 2007, the CWC monitors cyber-threats to key infocomm infrastructures and systems in the Government round-the-clock in real-time. This enhanced the overall security situational awareness of the public sector, thereby providing Government agencies with pre-emptive alerts and real-time response capabilities. A second key project announced today, the National Authentication Framework, aims to enhance online security and increase the confidence of individuals accessing online services such as those in the areas of banking, healthcare and education. IDA is spearheading the programme, with support from the Monetary Authority of Singapore and the Ministry of Finance.

  (Please refer to Fact Sheet on National Authentication Framework for more details)

- **National Grid** – The National Grid is built upon commercial grid service providers, and seeks to equip industry and consumers with on-demand and pay-as-you-use access to high performance computing capabilities, software, and immense data storage capacity. Today, IDA awards three consortia to be the first National Grid Service Providers. They are led by Singapore Computer Systems Ltd, PTC System (S) Pte Ltd, and New Media Express Pte Ltd. The National Grid Service Providers are expected to offer commercial services by the end of 2008 and businesses can approach any of the three consortia then.

  (Please refer to Fact Sheet on National Grid for more details)

UPDATE – STRENGTHENING CAPABILITIES OF LOCAL INFOCOMM ENTERPRISES

- **Singapore's Infocomm Industry Maintains Steady Growth** - Singapore's infocomm industry grew 13.8 per cent in 2007 to reach S$51.68 billion. Export revenue grew by 15.8 per cent last year and continues to constitute a major portion of the total revenue. This positive growth is in line with the significant inroads our infocomm local enterprises (iLEs) have made in international markets. The industry is on course to realise the iN2015 target of a three-fold increase in infocomm export revenue to S$60 billion by 2015.

  (Please refer to "Annual Survey on Infocomm Industry for 2007" for more details)

- **Infocomm Enterprise Programme (iEP**) - IDA launched iEP last year to help iLEs develop their capabilities and create intellectual property that can be exported to the global market. The first project of iEP is a "virtual classroom" tool developed by HeuLab Pte Ltd. The tool will be implemented by February 2009 in selected schools and tertiary institutions.

- **Partnership Programmes** - IDA's partnership programmes such as the Infocomm Local Industry Upgrading Programme (iLIUP) and Overseas Development Programme (or ODP), continues to create opportunities for our local infocomm enterprises to partner with Multi-national Corporations to develop solutions and build up new capabilities in innovative emerging technologies. These partnerships have also helped our local companies to generate their own innovative products and services which they can bring to global markets. So far, 15 leading MNCs are participating in both programmes.

- **Strengthening Singapore's Infocomm Ecosystem** - Over the last year, Singapore has successfully attracted notable infocomm companies to establish innovation centres, IT services and development centres here, thereby providing an environment for the development of innovative solutions and creating high-end jobs as well as helping our local infocomm companies gain exposure and experience.

- **Infocomm Singapore – Innovations in Action** - The Infocomm Singapore brand is gaining recognition in the global market as our innovative and competent iLEs bring their expertise to all corners of the world, creating solutions that work. Branding marketing activities include media campaigns and participation at international tradeshows. The Infocomm Singapore portal (www.infocommsingapore.sg), a virtual storefront for local enterprises, has more than 400 registered members.

STRATEGIC THRUST (3)
Develop an infocomm-savvy workforce and globally-competitive infocomm manpower

➢ Infocomm talent is critical to drive the nation's economic competitiveness, especially when infocomm technologies are becoming increasingly intrinsic in our lives. iN2015 will groom a sustained pool of infocomm talent, by deepening their technical capabilities and enhancing their global competitiveness, so that they can use infocomm technologies innovatively to grow Singapore's economy.

UPDATE – SINGAPORE'S POOL OF INFOCOMM TALENT GROWS

> Talent Seeding and Attraction

- **National Infocomm Scholarship (NIS)** - To attract the best and brightest students to take up careers in infocomm, IDA, together with the private and public sector organisations, offered a total of 107 scholarships under the NIS programme since 2004. More scholarships will be offered to develop infocomm leaders and ensure a sustainable pipeline of "industry-ready" talent for the infocomm industry.

- **Infocomm Clubs** - Infocomm Clubs is a Co-Curricular Activity which offers primary, secondary and junior college students the opportunity to gain exposure to and learn infocomm in a fun and meaningful way, and at the same time cultivate leadership and entrepreneurship capabilities from a young age. Since its inception in 2005, the number of Infocomm Clubs has grown to 150, with about 7,000 student members. Run in partnership with the Education Ministry and industry companies, Infocomm Clubs' activities include training, project work, mentorship, competitions and collaboration with other schools.

- **National Infocomm Competition (NIC)** - This is a series of challenges to excite, inculcate interest and raise exposure in infocomm among students, so that they will ultimately choose infocomm as a career. In 2007, more than 2,500 participants competed in 12 infocomm-themed challenges which ran from May till December. The NIC 2008, launched in March 2008, challenges participants in the use of next-generation infocomm technologies including interactive digital media, programming and Web 2.0 applications. In addition, the winners will have the opportunity to represent Singapore in international infocomm competitions such as the Imagine Cup 2008 and International Olympiad in Informatics. The NIC 2008 will culminate in December 2008, where the circuit champion will win an overseas knowledge acquisition trip.

> Talent Development and Upgrading

- **National Infocomm Competency Framework (NICF)** - Infocomm professionals and employers can take guidance from the NICF on the competencies and qualifications needed for key infocomm occupations and roles such as CIOs, CTOs and IT Managers. The infocomm areas that are currently mapped against NICF include Infocomm Security, Interactive Digital Media, IT Services, Network and Communications, Project Management, Software and Applications and Telecommunications.

- **Techno-Strategists Programme** - As economic sectors leverage infocomm to catalyse business transformation and create value, the demand for infocomm professionals who possess good technical skills and business domain knowledge will heighten. The Techno-Strategists Programme aims to enable infocomm professionals to acquire domain knowledge in various industries through training courses and workshops. The programme will start with training courses and workshops for professionals deployed in financial services, healthcare, hospitality and retail industries from August 2008.

- **Enhanced Learning in Infocomm Technology** - The Enhanced Learning in Infocomm Technology Programme or "ELITe" aims to develop "industry-ready" infocomm graduates for the infocomm industry and various economic sectors. From academic year 2008, infocomm undergraduates nominated by the three local universities, i.e., National University of Singapore, National Technological University and Singapore Management University, will be given opportunities to develop "beyond-academic" skills, thus enhancing their industry-readiness upon graduation. This is a structured programme which will enable infocomm undergraduates to broaden their knowledge and practical exposure through infocomm policy-thinking seminars, company internships, mentorships, industry-relevant projects, and courses and certification.

UPDATE – iN2015 INCREASES INFOCOMM USAGE & INNOVATION

- **Financial Services Sector** – IDA formulated the Next Generation e-Payments Programme to spur adoption of e-payments and double the transaction value of e-payments from S$25 billion in 2006, to S$50 billion by 2010. The programme aims to accelerate consumer and merchant adoption of e-payments, particularly in high cash-based segments, such as taxis, food and beverage outlets and heartland retail shops. A Call-for-Collaboration to support efforts in raising the adoption of e-payments will be issued by September 2008.

  IDA is also working with other Government agencies and the industry to exploit opportunities in innovative technology such as the Near Field Communications (NFC) for mobile payments. A Roundtable comprising Government agencies and the industry has been set up to develop the guidelines for interoperable NFC deployment. The Roundtable targets to announce its recommendations by the third quarter of this year.

- **Education & Learning Sector** – Through a Call-For-Collaboration, four consortia were selected in May 2008 to design and deploy next generation infocomm-enabled solutions for five FutureSchools, namely, Beacon Primary School, Canberra Primary School, Crescent Girls' School, Hwa Chong Institution and Jurong Secondary School. The CFC seeks to form strategic collaboration with infocomm partners to accelerate the development of the five FutureSchools, which will be done through next generation technologies that support the schools' innovative teaching and learning programmes. An S$80 million investment over a period of four years (from May 2008 to May 2012) will be contributed by the IDA, National Research Foundation and the industry.

- **Manufacturing & Logistics Sector** – Launched in September 2007, the S$12 million Infocomm@SeaPort programme aims to catalyse business transformation and operational excellence in the port community through the use of innovative infocomm technologies. QMax Communications, appointed in March 2008, deploys mobile WiMAX network infrastructure for WISEPORT within 15km from Singapore's southern coastline. Five companies have been selected to develop innovative content and applications over the wireless broadband access for the maritime community.

- **Healthcare Sector** – Healthcare is information-intensive and infocomm can be a key enabler to improve the quality and cost effectiveness of the healthcare delivery process. In transforming healthcare delivery processes to enable integrated and holistic care, the Integrated Clinic Management System (CMS) programme which was launched in Oct 2006 to enable GP clinics to provide holistic and continuity of care, has to date, 383 GP clinics adopting integrated CMS services. We are on track to achieve the target of 1,000 GP clinics adopting integrated CMS services by the end of 2011. The Health Ministry, IDA and The Enterprise Challenge an initiative under the Prime Minister's Office issued a joint Healthcare Call-for-Collaboration on 4 October 2007 inviting healthcare institutions and infocomm partners to form consortia to architect, develop and deploy innovative solutions to improve medical efficiency in the healthcare system for better and affordable clinical care quality. This is built on IDA's ten-year Intelligent Nation (iN2015) masterplan for the Healthcare sector to capitalise infocomm to enable innovation in healthcare delivery processes.

  (Please refer to Fact Sheet on Healthcare CFC Award for more details)

- **Tourism, Hospitality & Retail Sector** – The Digital Concierge pilot launched in June 2007 was completed successfully in April 2008. The Pilot provided more than 6,000 tourists and Singaporeans with useful mobile services such as personalised food recommendations and maps. It also attracted the participation of businesses such as retailers, food and beverage outlets and hotels, which used this channel to offer their products and services to potential customers. Following this success, the pilot service has been commercialised by the industry. This is in line with the exciting plans for Digital Concierge as we move to seek more industry and business participation to provide more services to consumers. More details will be shared by end 2008.

- **Digital Media & Entertainment Sector** – The Digital Marketplace programme launched on 17 June 2008 will develop a trusted and conducive environment for firms to manage, distribute and trade digital media assets through and from Singapore.

  (Please refer to Fact Sheet on Digital Marketplace for more details)

- **Government Services Sector** – Today, more than 200 Government information and services are made available via mobile devices, making e-services from public agencies more accessible and convenient to people. For example, students applying for admission to Junior Colleges and Polytechnics can now receive their posting results via SMS on their mobile phones instead of having to check online or receive via post. The Singapore Police Force, in collaboration with National Council of Social Services, recently introduced a new mobile service called SMS 70999 which enables the hearing and speech impaired community to send text messages to the Police in times of emergency. With Singapore's high mobile penetration of more than 130 per cent today, the delivery of mobile government services will provide our customers with an alternative mode of access to government information and services 24/7 and on-the-go.

    The number of CitizenConnect Centres has expanded from the initial five in November 2006 to 28 today. Citizens or residents who do not have access to, or need help in using the computer or the Internet, can find aid at such centres in their neighbourhood Community Clubs, where they can learn how to access Government online services.

    Progress for the Unique Entity Number (UEN) is on track. When rolled out in January 2009, the UEN will be issued to entities such as societies, representative offices, healthcare institutions and trade unions. The UEN will serve as the "NRIC" number for entities including businesses and companies, whose current ACRA number will be used as their UEN. This will ease their business operations as they only need to remember and use a single number to transact with any Government agency. The project is driven by a multi-agency working committee to conceptualise, develop and implement this unifying identity system for entities.

    The IDA is leading the development of a Standard ICT Operating Environment (SOEasy) for the public sector. In end-February 2008, the S$1.3 billion SOEasy tender was awarded to OneMeridian, the consortium led by EDS International. SOEasy will bring about a common desktop, network and messaging environment to enable public officers to work as One Government. This common infocomm environment will not only improve operational efficiency, but also promote innovation and enhance productivity at work for the public sector. SOEasy is expected to bring about S$500 million cost-savings to the Government, translating to an average of 28 per cent over current infocomm expenditure for equivalent services. SOEasy is currently being implemented in phases for 74 Government agencies, excluding the Ministry of Defence which has developed their own system, and Ministry of Education (Schools) which will be building a separate system. By July 2009, the first batch of Government agencies such as MOF, MICA and IDA will enjoy the full benefits of SOEasy. SOEasy will be fully implemented across the public sector by 2010.

The Government continues to develop its infrastructure and services to better meet the needs of the public sector and citizens. As part of FY2008 procurement plans, the Singapore Government will call S$1.4billion worth of new infocomm tenders. This investment in infocomm will enable the public sector to increase its efficiency and effectiveness of its operations, including meeting the growing expectations of businesses and citizens in their transactions with the Government. As part of this investment, the current one-stop Government online portal, www.gov.sg, will be revamped to improve its citizen-centric features that will better engage our citizens and enhance their online experience.

- **Infocomm@SME Programme** - This is an IDA programme which aims to enable SMEs to see the value of infocomm and adopt it to grow their business. Under this umbrella programme, three sub-programmes were developed to holistically help SMEs in their infocomm adoption journey. They are Infocomm_Usage@SME, Infocomm_for_Growth@SME and Infocomm_Innovation@SME. The following are highlights from the past year:

  Infocomm_Usage@SME: In December 2007, IDA, together with the Accounting and Corporate Regulatory Authority (ACRA) and the Singapore Network Information Centre (SGNIC), launched the SME Domain Name Reservation initiative to encourage more local businesses to establish a web presence to better reach the global marketplace. Under this initiative, new start-ups can easily reserve a domain name at the same time they register their business with ACRA's BizFile online system. First-time registrants of domain names can enjoy promotional discounts of up to S$30. To date, more than 1,000 SMEs have registered their first domain names with SGNIC.

  The SME Infocomm Resource Centre at Singapore Polytechnic (SIRC@SP), which aims to showcase technology and provide infocomm advisory/consultancy services to SMEs, was launched in June 2007. At SIRC@SP, SMEs can attend the monthly workshops on various infocomm topics, such as security awareness, e-commerce and Web 2.0 or get help in installing or configuring commonly used software, including anti-virus and IP telephony applications. In addition, SMEs can pilot innovative solutions at the centre before embarking on full-scale implementation. More than 100 SMEs have since benefited from the services offered by SIRC@SP.

  Infocomm_for_Growth@SME & Infocomm_Innovation@SME: SMEs with innovative ideas on how infocomm can better their business can apply for a grant under the Technology Innovation Programme (TIP), a S$5-million initiative jointly administered by IDA and SPRING Singapore to help SMEs grow using infocomm. The fund will help to defray up to 50 per cent of the qualifying costs of manpower, hardware and software needed to develop an infocomm solution. To date, 15 SMEs have been motivated to transform their businesses using infocomm via a total grant of over S$1 million awarded to them.

INFOCOMM FOR EVERYONE

➢ iN2015 will build an inclusive digital society by reaching out to all facets of society, so that no one will be left behind as Singapore moves towards realising its vision of an "Intelligent Nation and Global City, powered by infocomm".

- **Update on Reaching Out to the Needy** – As part of iN2015, IDA is committed to work with community groups and industry, to bring the benefits of infocomm to all, ensuring that sections of the population such as the elderly, disabled, poor and less-educated have access to infocomm, and make use of it to access e-services, improve their lifestyle, or to enhance employment and employability.

  Engaging the Elderly: IDA launched the Silver Infocomm Initiative (SII) to increase awareness, provide access, support and promote infocomm usage among senior citizens in November 2007. The target is to equip 30,000 senior citizens with digital lifestyle skills and knowledge by 2010. The inaugural *Silver Infocomm Day* was held in November 2007, in conjunction with the Active Aging Festival. The *Silver Infocomm Junction* (SIJ), a senior-friendly and conveniently-located learning hub, was also opened at the RSVP Singapore facility in Bishan in November 2007. Since its launch till May 2008, about 2,000 senior citizens have completed some basic IT courses and tutorial sessions. IDA will continue to work closely with the volunteer & welfare organisations and industry to establish at least eight such junctions by 2010. Besides classroom-based learning, IDA also organises digital photography and travel-related e-lifestyle workshops and field trips to showcase exciting applications of infocomm to senior citizens.

  From August 2008, a multi-lingual, easy-to-understand infocomm curriculum kit will be offered to senior citizens through SII's partners. This courseware will equip senior citizens with digital lifestyle skills such as making video calls over the Internet, performing online transactions and activating accessibility features on their computers.

  Equipping the Needy: The NEU PC programme is an initiative started in 1999 by IDA to build an all-inclusive digital society where needy students can have equal access to infocomm. In 2006, this programme evolved to become NEU PC Plus to address today's dynamic school curriculum and to support the iN2015 Masterplan's goals. The NEU PC Plus programme offers students from low-income household and disabled people a brand new computer bundled with three years of free broadband access and software at an affordable price. Since 1999 to May 2008, the NEU PC and NEU PC Plus programmes collectively have benefited more than 25,000 households whose gross monthly household income is less than S$2,000 or per capita monthly income does not exceed S$500.

For NEU PC Plus applicants who are unable to make the co-payment, the iNSPIRE Fund was launched in November 2007 to allow them to render community service in order to receive a fully-paid desktop PC. It will assist students from households with total monthly income of below S$1,500 or per capita monthly income of less than S$300.

Empowering the Disabled: In July 2008, the Infocomm Accessibility Centre (IA Centre), an IT centre of learning for the disabled, will be fully operational. The IA Centre aims to help the people with disabilities to bridge their IT literacy gaps, increase independency and enhance employability. Some 4,000 people with disabilities will be able to benefit from subsidised infocomm courses, job-specific apprenticeship training and job placement assistance.

An Assistive Technology (AT) Library there will provide "AT suitability" assessment, to better help the disabled decide on the appropriate tools to purchase or loan.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
IDA Communication Contact:

- Ms HO Hwei Ling, Assistant Director, +65 6211 1996,
HO_hwei_ling@ida.gov.sg

- Mr HO Ka Wei, Manager, +65 6211 0273, HO_ka_wei@ida.gov.sg