

Case Reference	R/E/I/005
Title	Withdrawal of E1 Links for Backhaul Services by Singapore Telecommunications Ltd
Case Opened	23 July 2001
Case Closed	10 September 2001
Complainant	MobileOne (Asia) Pte Ltd (“M1”)
Respondent	Singapore Telecommunications Ltd (“SingTel”)
Summary of Issue Raised	<p>IDA had earlier approved SingTel’s withdrawal of the provision of E1 links for its wholesale backhaul service on the premise that there was no indication of interest and demand from any Facilities-based Operators (“FBO”) for such links. Subsequently, it came to IDA’s attention that there were expressed interest and demand from M1 to SingTel for E1 backhaul links when SingTel was seeking IDA’s approval for the withdrawal.</p> <p>IDA initiated enforcement proceeding under Section 10.3.1 of the Telecom Competition Code (“Code”) as it had reason to believe that SingTel had breached Section 7.4 “Unfair Methods of Competition” of the Code and Condition 36.1 (Provision of Information) of SingTel’s FBO Licence.</p> <p>Pending the conclusion of IDA’s enforcement proceeding, IDA issued an interim order, directing SingTel to cease and desist from the removal of the E1 links for its wholesale backhaul service provision.</p>
IDA’s Determination	<p>During the course of investigation, IDA noted that the withdrawal of the low bandwidth links for backhaul services did not affect the requesting operators’ operations, as there were alternatives in the market for the requesting operators to provide services to their customers. There was also lack of sufficient evidence to prove that SingTel had intentionally withheld information from IDA when seeking IDA’s approval for the withdrawal.</p> <p>IDA concluded that SingTel neither breached Section 7.4 of the Code nor Condition 36.1 of its FBO Licence. IDA also lifted the interim cease and desist order imposed on SingTel.</p>