



**AUCTION OF
1800 MHz SPECTRUM RIGHT (2011)**

INFORMATION MEMORANDUM

3 March 2011

INFO-COMMUNICATIONS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE

Important Notice

Terms and expressions used in this Important Notice are as defined in this Information Memorandum.

This Information Memorandum has been prepared in connection with the proposed grant of an 1800 MHz Spectrum Right (2011) pursuant to the Telecommunications (Radio-communication) Regulations. This Information Memorandum is for informational purposes only. It is made available on the express understanding that it will be used for the sole purpose of assisting an interested party in deciding whether it wishes to proceed with a further investigation of possible participation in the Auction.

This Information Memorandum is not intended to form any part of the basis of any investment decision or other evaluation of any decision to participate in the Auction and should not be considered as a recommendation by IDA or IDA's advisers to participate in the Auction. Each interested party must make its own independent assessment of the potential value of an 1800 MHz Spectrum Right (2011) after making such investigation as it may deem necessary. All information contained in this Information Memorandum may be updated or amended at any time.

While the information contained in this Information Memorandum is accurate as at the time of posting on IDA's website, neither IDA nor any of IDA's advisers nor any of their respective directors, partners, officers or employees make any representation or warranty (express or implied) nor has nor will have any responsibility or liability in relation to the accuracy or completeness of the information contained in this Information Memorandum or any other written or oral information made available to any interested party or its advisers. Any responsibility or liability in respect of any such information or any inaccuracy in this Information Memorandum or omission from this Information Memorandum is expressly disclaimed.

This Information Memorandum does not constitute an offer or invitation to participate in the Auction.

Each recipient of this Information Memorandum should consult its own professional advisers as to financial, legal, tax and other matters concerning any potential participation in the Auctions or any grant of an 1800 MHz Spectrum Right (2011).

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(A) GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Introduction

1.1 The Info-communications Development Authority of Singapore (“IDA”) is the authority in charge of regulating and promoting the information and communication technology industry in Singapore. Pursuant to the Telecommunications (Radio-communication) Regulations, IDA will offer to grant one 1800 MHz Spectrum Right (2011) in respect of **one 2x5 MHz lot of 1800 MHz spectrum (“1800 MHz Spectrum Lot”)** by way of the process described in this Information Memorandum (“**Auction**”). An 1800 MHz Spectrum Right (2011) will permit the Bidder to use the 1800 MHz Spectrum Lot it is allocated in the Auction to operate a telecommunication system for the purposes of providing Public Cellular Mobile Telecommunication Services (“**PCMTS**”), provided that the Winning Bidder has the necessary Facilities-Based Operator Licence (“**FBO Licence**”) for such operations. This Information Memorandum contains important information that interested persons should read and understand for the purpose of the Auction.

1.2 This Information Memorandum contains:

- details of the 1800 MHz Spectrum Lot offered for allocation in the Auction and the 1800 MHz Spectrum Right (2011) that will be granted in respect thereof;
- a review of associated policy issues;
- an indicative timetable; and
- a description of the application process.

Unless expressly specified otherwise, terms and expressions used in this Information Memorandum are defined in the Auction Rules, released by IDA on 3 March 2011.

2. Spectrum to be Allocated

- 2.1 IDA will allocate one of the two lots of 1800 MHz spectrum shown in Table 1 (“**Available Spectrum Lots**”). The specific 1800 MHz Spectrum Lot to be allocated will be determined through the Auction.

Table 1: Available Spectrum Lots

Lot	Lower Band (MHz)	Upper Band (MHz)
A	1730-1735	1825-1830
B	1780-1785	1875-1880

3. Existing Use of the Spectrum

- 3.1 The 1800 MHz frequency band has been designated for the provision of PCMTS in Singapore. The 1800 MHz frequency band has been partially assigned to SingTel Mobile Pte Ltd, M1 Limited and StarHub Mobile Pte Ltd through their respective PCMTS Spectrum Rights and 1800 MHz Spectrum Right, which will expire on 31 March 2017.

4. Use of the 1800 MHz Spectrum Lot

- 4.1 Given the importance of ensuring the continued provision of nationwide mobile telephone services to both businesses and consumers, including inbound roamers, the operator using the 1800 MHz Spectrum Lot will be required to provide PCMTS to members of the public. For the avoidance of doubt, to meet the requirement to provide PCMTS, the operator must use its assigned spectrum in the 900 MHz/EGSM and/or 1800 MHz frequency bands (“**PCMTS Spectrum**”) to offer, as a minimum, a publicly available mobile voice telephony service which meets the requirements for level “8” and “9” telephone numbers, within the service scope and obligations under their existing FBO licences. This includes the requirements to provide nationwide coverage¹, free access to emergency services, and uninterrupted, seamless call handover when moving from location to location at a speed of up to 100km/h. The operator must offer this service using all or part of its assigned PCMTS Spectrum. The operator may provide other forms of PCMTS (e.g. SMS services) in addition to this voice service.

¹ The service coverage must extend to the whole island of Singapore (including MRT underground stations/lines and road tunnels), the offshore islands and the territorial waters up to 15km from the coast line of the island of Singapore.

- 4.2 IDA will not restrict the technology used to only existing 2G technologies. Bearing in mind the potential deployment of other technologies capable of providing PCMTS, IDA will allow 2G or 3G technologies and other technologies which share a similar platform and allow higher speed data services, such as GPRS, EDGE or HSDPA/HSUPA/HSPA, to be deployed in the 1800 MHz Spectrum Lot, as long as the spectrum is used for the provision of PCMTS.
- 4.3 Further, IDA is aware that there may be other technologies, existing or future, that may not be classified as 2G or 3G technologies or their evolved versions, but yet are capable of providing PCMTS. Should operators wish to deploy these technologies in the 1800 MHz Spectrum Lot, IDA will assess such requests on a case-by-case basis, taking into account issues such as the technical interference between these technologies, technologies deployed in the neighbouring frequency bands and other relevant considerations.
- 4.4 IDA may allow operators to use the 1800 MHz Spectrum Lot or their existing PCMTS Spectrum to provide non-PCMTS services, such as fixed wireless broadband, as long as they have met the requirement to provide PCMTS. Operators will be required to seek IDA's approval to amend their existing FBO Licence, Radio-Communication Network Licence and relevant spectrum right(s) before they may provide these non-PCMTS services. They will also need to comply with any technical requirements that IDA may set.

5. Rationale for Auction Approach

- 5.1 The auction methodology has been chosen to be the mechanism to allocate the 1800 MHz Spectrum Right (2011). This takes into account that spectrum is a scarce and finite resource and that a market-based allocation approach, such as an auction, is more effective in ensuring spectrum optimisation by operators. An auction will be a more efficient, objective and transparent approach for allocating scarce resources because it relies on market forces to allocate scarce resources to those who value them most. See Section B for overview of the Auction mechanism.

6. Registration and Initial Offers

- 6.1 The Auction is an auxiliary spectrum allocation exercise to enhance the capacity of existing PCMTS operators' networks. Participation in the Auction is thus limited to operators which are already licensed by IDA to provide PCMTS under their FBO licences.

- 6.2 In order to participate in the Auction, a person must submit an Initial Offer Document and a Bank Guarantee (copies of which are respectively set out in Appendices 1 and 2 to the Auction Rules).
- 6.3 IDA will determine: (a) whether the Initial Offer Document and Bank Guarantee are in compliance with the Auction Rules; and (b) whether a person submitting such documents is eligible and should be registered as a Bidder and entitled to participate in the Auction.
- 6.4 Any party considering participating in the Auction should not assume that their application to participate in, their participation in, or the results of, the Auction will be kept confidential. IDA may also publicly announce information relating to the Auction and/or the award of 1800 MHz Spectrum Right (2011) either during or following the close of the Auction or the relevant procedure, without consulting any interested party.

7. Determination as to whether the Auction will Proceed

- 7.1 IDA retains the discretion as to whether to proceed with the Auction in all situations. For example, if there is only up to one valid Initial Offer received for the Available Spectrum Lots, IDA will not proceed with the Auction and will instead grant the 1800 MHz Spectrum Right (2011) to the sole Bidder in respect of the relevant 1800 MHz Spectrum Lot specified in the Initial Offer, at the Reserve Price. Annual Charges and Application and Processing Fees will also apply.

8. Reserve Price

- 8.1 The Reserve Price for the 1800 MHz Spectrum Lot is S\$400,000, exclusive of the applicable Goods and Services Tax ("GST").

9. Fees and Charges Payable for the Duration of the 1800MHz Spectrum Rights

- 9.1 In the first year of the duration of the 1800 MHz Spectrum Right (2011), in respect of the 1800 MHz Spectrum Lot, the Winning Bidder shall pay:
- (a) the Base Year Charge that is equal to the Standing Bid at the close of the Auction, or equal to the Reserve Price if the Auction does not proceed; and
 - (b) an Application and Processing Fee of \$22,500.00, exclusive of the applicable GST.
- 9.2 In addition, the Annual Charge shall be payable by the Winning Bidder to IDA in respect of the 1800 MHz Spectrum Lot allocated to it under the 1800 MHz Spectrum Right (2011). Such Annual Charge shall be payable from the first year for the duration of the 1800 MHz Spectrum Right (2011) in

accordance with the terms and conditions of the 1800 MHz Spectrum Right (2011). The Annual Charge for the 1800 MHz Spectrum Lot is S\$140,000.00, excluding the applicable GST.

10. Outcome of the Auction

10.1 In the case where the Auction proceeds, the outcome of the Auction will determine:

- (a) which of the two Available Spectrum Lots will be allocated;
- (b) the Bidder which is granted the 1800 MHz Spectrum Right (2011) in respect of the 1800 MHz Spectrum Lot (“Winning Bidder”); and
- (c) the Base Year Charge for 1800 MHz Spectrum Lot allocated under that Auction.

10.2 Please refer to Section B for details on how the 1800 MHz Spectrum Lot will be allocated if the Auction proceeds.

11. 1800 MHz Spectrum Rights, FBO Licences and Station/Network Licences, and Roll-out Requirements

11.1 The 1800 MHz Spectrum Right (2011) will constitute the grant of a right to use specific parts of the radio frequency spectrum to operate a telecommunication system for the purposes of providing PCMTS services in relation to that 1800 MHz Spectrum Right (2011).

11.2 The Winning Bidder will not be issued a new FBO Licence pursuant to the grant of the 1800 MHz Spectrum Right (2011) as it would already hold an existing FBO Licence to provide PCMTS. A Winning Bidder which holds a 3G FBO Licence will need to apply for IDA’s approval to amend its existing 3G FBO Licence and Radio-Communications Network Licence in order to use the 1800 MHz Spectrum Right (2011) to provide 3G services. In this regard, the existing 3G Licensee will have to pay an FBO licence fee set at 1% of the Annual Gross Turnover (“AGTO”), for the provision of 3G services under its 3G FBO Licence using the 1800 MHz Spectrum Right (2011). If a Winning Bidder wishes to use the spectrum to provide PCMTS services using Long Term Evolution (LTE) technologies, it will be required to seek IDA’s approval to amend its existing FBO Licences and Radio-Communications Network Licences before providing such services.

11.3 For the avoidance of doubt, an operator who wishes to use any part of its existing PCMTS Spectrum to provide PCMTS services using LTE or any other type of system that is not covered in its existing licences will also be required to obtain IDA’s approval to amend its existing FBO Licence, Radio-Communications Network Licence and relevant spectrum right(s) before providing such services.

- 11.4 All holders of FBO Licences will be required to pay the annual FBO Licence fees, currently set at 1% AGTO based on the provision of services specified in the FBO Licence Schedules, subject to a minimum of S\$100,000. Please refer to IDA's website, under the section on "Policy & Regulation, Licensing", for a template of an FBO Licence.
- 11.5 In addition, the Winning Bidder will be required to apply for, and obtain, the relevant Station/Network (Spectrum) Licence(s) before operating the radio-communication systems to provide PCMTS using the 1800 MHz Spectrum Lot. The fees payable on such Station/Network (Spectrum) Licences are prescribed in the First Schedule of the Telecommunications (Radio-communication) Regulations.
- 11.6 The 1800 MHz Spectrum Right (2011) is granted by IDA pursuant to the powers granted to IDA under the Info-communications Development Authority of Singapore Act (Cap. 137A) ("IDA Act"), the Telecommunications Act (Cap. 323) ("Telecommunications Act") and the Telecommunications (Radio-communication) Regulations. A template of the 1800 MHz Spectrum Right (2011) is attached as Appendix 3 to the Auction Rules. For the avoidance of doubt, IDA reserves the right to amend any of the conditions specified in the template in Appendix 3 or to add or remove conditions as it considers appropriate.

12. Duration of 1800 MHz Spectrum Right (2011)

- 12.1 The 1800 MHz Spectrum Right (2011) awarded under the Auction or otherwise allocated by IDA if the Auction does not proceed, will be effective as of 1 April 2011, or such other date as IDA may determine in accordance with the Auction Rules. The 1800 MHz Spectrum Right (2011) will be valid until 31 March 2017. There is no commitment by IDA that the 1800 MHz Spectrum Right (2011) allocated under the Auction will be extended for any period, if at all.
- 12.2 If, at IDA's discretion, there is any grant of an extension of the 1800 MHz Spectrum Right (2011), or if there is any new allocation exercise for spectrum in the 1800 MHz frequency band, there is no commitment by IDA that the same 1800 MHz Spectrum Lot will be re-allocated in that subsequent extension or allocation exercise to the Winning Bidder in the Auction, or that the same applicable fees and charges will apply in respect of the 1800 MHz Spectrum Lot.

13. Spectrum Trading

- 13.1 IDA will permit the trading of the whole or any part of the rights allocated pursuant to the grant of the 1800 MHz Spectrum Right (2011). Spectrum trading will be subject to:

- (a) approval from IDA;
- (b) any restriction and condition or other requirements imposed or specified by IDA; and
- (c) the relevant provisions of the Telecommunications (Radio-communication) Regulations and Code of Practice for Competition in the Provision of Telecommunication Services (“Telecom Competition Code”).

14. No Moratorium

- 14.1 IDA may allocate further spectrum in the 1800 MHz frequency band for the provision of PCMTS or any other telecommunication services at any time and in any manner, and does not commit to any moratorium period during which no such allocation will take place. However, IDA will give at least three months’ notice prior to the commencement of any further allocation exercise.

15. Radio Frequency Interference

- 15.1 The Winning Bidder will be required to co-ordinate with other operators holding PCMTS Spectrum Rights and with neighbouring countries' network operators to avoid frequency interference problems when using the 1800 MHz Spectrum Lot, and to make the most efficient use of the spectrum they hold. IDA will only intervene in cases where operators are unable to resolve these problems themselves.
- 15.2 The Winning Bidder will be required to provide a guard band of at least 200 KHz on the lower frequency boundary of the lot, unless it also holds the spectrum right for the spectrum lot on the other side of the boundary.

16. Health and Safety Issues

- 16.1 This Information Memorandum does not express any view or opinion on matters relating to health hazards from exposure to electromagnetic fields. The Winning Bidder is expected to be apprised of and comply with any guidelines, recommendations or other standards that may be issued by the relevant ministries or statutory boards and/or internationally recognised expert bodies in this field.

(B) INTRODUCTION TO THE AUCTION FRAMEWORK

This introduction is intended only to provide an overview of some of the main features of the Auction. Any party interested in participating in the Auction should familiarise itself with the Auction Rules and should seek appropriate independent legal and other advice in respect of the Auction Rules.

1. Pre-Auction

- 1.1 To be registered as a Bidder entitled to participate in the Auction, an interested party must, by 5.00 pm on the Application Date in accordance with the Auction Rules:
 - (a) submit to IDA its Initial Offer Document; and
 - (b) deposit a Bank Guarantee with the IDA for the Guaranteed Amount of S\$500,000.
- 1.2 An interested person must specify in his Initial Offer Document one specific spectrum lot, from among the two Available Spectrum Lots, for which it submits an Initial Offer at the Reserve Price ("**Specified Lot**").
- 1.3 If there is only up to one valid Initial Offer received, IDA will not proceed with the Auction. If there is one valid Initial Offer, IDA will grant the 1800 MHz Spectrum Right (2011) in respect of the Specified Lot at the Reserve Price to the Bidder that submitted that valid Initial Offer. Annual Charges and Application and Processing Fees will also apply.
- 1.4 The Auction will proceed if more than one Initial Offer is received.
- 1.5 If IDA determines that the Auction will proceed, details of the Auction timetable and a list of all Bidders participating will be notified to Bidders. An Information Session will be held to allow Bidders to familiarise themselves with the procedures for the Auction.
- 1.6 A timetable showing the expected timing of the Auction and related matters is set out in Section B of this Information Memorandum. Details of the timing and location of the Information Session will be provided to Bidders at least one Business Day in advance.

2. The Auction

- 2.1 One 1800 MHz Spectrum Right (2011) will be auctioned. The Winning Bidder will be granted the 1800 MHz Spectrum Right (2011) in respect of its Specified Lot.
- 2.2 The Auction will be conducted in accordance with the Auction Rules. The Auction will be conducted using a manual bidding procedure. It will be an ascending auction, conducted in a series of Rounds. In each Round, the

Auctioneer will invite Bidders to submit Valid Bids at an Offer Price. In the first Round, the Offer Price will be \$10,000 above the Reserve Price. In each subsequent Round, the Offer Price will be raised by \$10,000. A Bidder makes a Valid Bid when one of the Bidder's Authorised Representative raises the Bidder's bidding card in a Round and is verbally acknowledged by the Auctioneer. The Auction will close in the first instance where no further Valid Bid is submitted within five minutes of the start of the Round, unless otherwise provided for in the Auction Rules.

3. Results of the Auction

- 3.1 IDA will announce the results of the Auction within two Business Days (or such longer time as IDA deems appropriate which will be no more than four Business Days) of the announcement of the close of the Auction.
- 3.2 The 1800 MHz Spectrum Right (2011) will be granted following payment by the Winning Bidder in full of the relevant Base Year Charge, the Annual Fee for the first year and Application and Processing Fee, plus any Forfeiture imposed on the Bidder. If a Bidder fails to pay such amount within the specified period, that Bidder will not be granted the 1800 MHz Spectrum Right (2011).

4. Forfeiture and Exclusion

- 4.1 IDA may determine that a Bidder will forfeit amounts up to the amount of its Bank Guarantee for breaches of the Auction Rules and other conduct prejudicial to the Auction.
- 4.2 Bidders can be excluded from the Auction by notice from IDA in certain circumstances, including collusion between Bidders and conduct prejudicial to the Auction.

(DISCLAIMER: Neither IDA nor any of its officers or employees makes any representation nor warranty (express or implied) nor accepts nor will accept any responsibility or liability whatsoever as to, or in relation to, any errors resulting from or relating to the Auction. In no event shall IDA or any of its officers or employees be liable for any damages whatsoever resulting from or relating to the Auction. No obligation or liability whatsoever on the part of IDA or its officers or employees will arise from the advice or service provided in connection with the Auction.

Bidders are solely responsible for ensuring the security of their bids and that only their Authorised Representatives submit bids on their behalf. Neither IDA nor any of its officers or employees will accept any responsibility or liability whatsoever for any of these matters.)

(C) TIMETABLE

1. The timetable set out below is indicative only of the expected timing of certain key events prior to the start of the Auction. The Auction Rules contain provisions relating to the notice which will be given of certain dates and events in relation to the Auction process.
2. Please note that IDA may at any time change any of the times or dates and/or shorten or extend the time periods set out in the Auction Rules upon giving at least twenty-four (24) hours notice, save in emergency situations where such changes may be made without notice.

Milestones	Date
Publication of Auction Rules	3 March 2011
Submission of Initial Offer Document and Bank Guarantee	10 March 2011
Announcement of whether Auction will proceed	11 March 2011
Information Session and Notification of Auction Details	14 March 2011
Auction Day	21 March 2011

(D) THE REGULATORY REGIME IN SINGAPORE

1. The Regulatory Authority

1.1 IDA is the authority in charge of regulating the information and communication technology industry in Singapore. IDA is a statutory board under the purview of the Ministry of Information, Communications and the Arts.

2. Relevant Legislations

2.1 There are various legislations and subsidiary legislations that are relevant to 1800 MHz Spectrum Rights. Parties interested in being granted an 1800 MHz Spectrum Right (2011) should ensure that they familiarise themselves with such legislations and seek independent legal and other appropriate advice in respect of such legislation.

2.2 The relevant legislations includes (but is not limited to):

- (a) the IDA Act;
- (b) the Telecommunications Act; and
- (c) the Telecommunications (Radio-communication) Regulations.

2.3 There are also various codes of practice governing the field of telecommunications, which include (but are not limited to):

- (a) the Telecom Competition Code; and
- (b) the Code of Practice for Info-Communications Facilities in Buildings (“**COPIF**”).

3. The IDA Act

3.1 The IDA Act sets out the functions and powers of IDA with regard to the licensing and regulation of telecommunication systems and services in Singapore.

4. The Telecommunications Act

4.1 The Telecommunications Act is the primary legislation relating to telecommunications. The Telecommunications Act empowers IDA to grant licences for the provision of telecommunication services and to regulate the telecommunication industry in Singapore. It also authorises IDA to make regulations governing the classes of licences to be granted by IDA and the conditions for their grant, as well as the control and regulation of interference by radiowaves, electrical and other telecommunication means in Singapore. Offences and penalties relating to the unlawful operation of

telecommunication systems or services are also stipulated in the Telecommunications Act.

5. The Telecommunications (Radio-communication) Regulations

- 5.1 The Telecommunications (Radio-communication) Regulations was gazetted on 2 March 2001 and came into force on that date in place of the repealed Radio-Communication Regulations (which was gazetted in August 1994).
- 5.2 The Telecommunications (Radio-communication) Regulations set out the regulatory framework by which IDA exercises licensing and regulatory functions in respect of the allocation, management and use of radio frequency spectrum in Singapore.
- 5.3 All Bidders participating in the Auction should familiarise themselves with the Telecommunications (Radio-communication) Regulations.

6. The Telecom Competition Code

- 6.1 The Telecom Competition Code first came into force on 29 September 2000. On 22 December 2010, IDA issued a revised Telecom Competition Code 2010, which came into effect on 21 January 2011. The Telecom Competition Code 2010 sets out a comprehensive regulatory framework for the development of fair and effective competition in the telecommunication industry in Singapore.
- 6.2 The licensing framework adopted by IDA under the Telecommunications Act, for providing telecommunication services, is divided into the following categories of licensees:
 - (a) Facilities-based licensees;
 - (b) Services-based licensees;
 - (c) Telecommunication equipment dealer licensees; and
 - (d) Self-provisioning licensees.
- 6.3 The Telecom Competition Code applies to the categories of licensees listed in (a), (b), and (c) above, albeit to varying degrees in recognition that certain licensees should be obliged to comply with more stringent obligations by virtue of the extent of their control over the market.

7. COPIF

- 7.1 The COPIF came into effect on 15 September 2008 and sets out detailed specifications and guidelines for telecommunication facilities in buildings to ensure that architects and construction professionals include in new and re-furbished buildings adequate in-building cabling facilities and space

required for the operation of installations and plants used by the public telecommunication licensees and telecommunication system licensees in providing info-communication services to building occupants.

- 7.2 The Telecom Competition Code and COPIF are available on the IDA website.