



Hong Kong Institution of Engineers

Electronics Division

9/F Island Beverley, No 1 Great George, Causeway Bay, Hong Kong
Tel. No. : +852 2895 4446 Fax No. : +852 2577 7791

Office of Government Chief Information Office
2/F, Murray Building,
Garden Road, Hong Kong
Fax: 2511 1458
e-Mail: digital21@ogcio.gov.hk

18 December 2006

Dear Madams/Sirs,

**Submission to the Public Consultation Paper on the Draft 2007 Digital 21 Strategy
Issued by the Commerce, Industry and Technology Bureau**

On behalf of the Electronics Division of the Hong Kong Institution of Engineers, we welcome the opportunity to submit our views on the public consultation paper on the Draft 2007 Digital 21 Strategy. Our views and suggestions are as follows.

Promoting Advanced Technology and Innovation

1. While we in general agree with the direction as set forth in this chapter, we have some specific comments on the following specific areas.
2. In para 4.9.1 the last bullet point of the consultation paper, it is stated that *“The Government will continue to provide an enabling environment for the introduction of new communications technologies, such as broadband wireless access for fixed-mobile convergence and ultra-wideband for home networking. Policy frameworks and regulatory arrangements, such as those relating to the radio frequency spectrum, will be reviewed as and when necessary to take account of prevailing market situations.”* We wish to point out that Hong Kong is already lagging behind in the provision of broadband wireless access in comparison to some other cities in Asia. For example, Taipei has already achieved almost 100% coverage on Wi-Fi network in major parts of its city. Similarly, Singapore has announced earlier this year to build a full coverage of Wi-Fi access network to all public area, and fund the public use of this Wi-Fi network for the first two years. We recommend the Government should put on emphasis and drive on this aspect, e.g. by taking the lead to build (or providing incentives to private companies to invest in) a broadband wireless access network for the public area using industry de facto standard such as Wi-Fi or Wi-Max. With the increasing popularity of Wi-Fi or Wi-Max enabled mobile devices such as smartphones or PDAs this will also enhance the business competitiveness of Hong Kong people by providing the necessary access to business applications via broadband internet while away from the office. This will also provide an access platform conducive to the development of mobile broadband applications on the PDA and Smartphones.



Hong Kong Institution of Engineers Electronics Division

9/F Island Beverley, No 1 Great George, Causeway Bay, Hong Kong
Tel. No. : +852 2895 4446 Fax No. : +852 2577 7791

Vibrant ICT industry

3. In para 5.8 of the consultation paper indicated that “.... *through the ITAC (Industry Training Advisory Committee (ITAC)) a set of Specification of Competency Standards to identify standards required for different levels of qualifications under the QF (Qualification Framework). The Government welcomes these complementary efforts by professional bodies (HKCS and HKIE)*”. We are pleased to learn that the Government is having a positive attitude towards the complementary efforts by professional bodies on this aspect of competency standards. However, we are of the view that the Government should take a step even further , for instance, by adopting the qualification framework established by professional bodies (e.g. Registered Professional Engineer (Information)) in the new recruit of its professional workforce, and to specify in its ICT related contract that certain responsible officer of the contractor (e.g. Project Manager, Design Manager, etc.) shall possess such professional qualification recognized by the professional bodies.

Creating a conducive business environment

4. While there has been considerable emphasis on areas such as Information Security, Privacy, Protection of IPR, Development of Data Standards, Regulatory Framework and Tackling Unsolicited Electronic Messages, there has been little emphasis in the need to minimize the risk of electromagnetic interference between different ICT devices, through the enforcement of electromagnetic compatibility. This is an area in which Hong Kong has lagged behind the European Commission, which has required that commencing 2000 all electronics and ICT equipment to be sold in the EC countries to be certified for conformance to relevant EMC standards in accordance with the EMC Directive 89/336/EEC.

We hope the aforementioned views and comments are useful.

Best regards,

Ir. Dr. Oliver Choi
Chairman, Electronics Division
Hong Kong Institution of Engineers