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In response to the consultation paper by the Commerce, Industry and Technology Bureau (“CITB”), the Government of HKSAR, on Digital 21 Strategy, New World Telecommunications Limited (“NWT”) is delighted to share its insights as below:

- To be a world leader in technology, the HKSAR Government must take an active role in encouraging the deployment and usage of the different technologies and solutions available. It should start with the proliferation of high-speed Internet services in Hong Kong. Though Hong Kong has gained remarkable international recognition and ranked fifth in the world in digital inclusiveness, according to the Digital Opportunity Index 2005 developed by the ITU, that the current Internet penetration in business (55% in 2005) and its IT adoption have still room for improvement. As well, most leading ISP operators in Hong Kong are still based on ADSL technology and do not support high bandwidth services and applications. We advocate the Government to take a more active role in assisting the transition of Hong Kong’s Internet infrastructure to high-speed broadband for business users and consumers.
- NWT believes that the citywide deployment of broadband wireless access (BWA), in light of the global trend of fixed-mobile convergence (FMC), is the next step of ICT development in town. NWT has been joining hands with different vendors to conduct technology trial runs of BWA for local access application in the Hong Kong environment. The preliminary findings of these trial runs have proved that the deployment of BWA in Hong Kong is feasible. Benchmarking the success in the trial runs of BWA in Hong Kong and in its active deployment in overseas countries including Taiwan, Singapore and Thailand, NWT believes there is no reason for delaying the BWA deployment in Hong Kong. Such a deployment in Hong Kong might further lead to the technological collaboration between Hong Kong and the Mainland China. The HKSAR Government should immediately step up on the issuing of BWA frequencies and licences, and put aside any non-significant issues like the interconnection charge review and step up to the issuing of BWA frequencies and licences.