

Public Consultation on 2014 Digital 21 Strategy

Hutchison Global Communications Limited welcomes the opportunity to put forward our view on the proposed initiatives set out in the Public Consultation on 2014 Digital 21 Strategy (the “Consultation”).

1. Public Wi-Fi Access

With regard to the extension of the coverage of public Wi-Fi service round the city, we are of the view that the Government should work with the telecom sector in terms of deployment of hotspots round the city. The Government should consider the following:

- Making use of the Wi-Fi facilities already exist in private establishments that are open for public access, such as shopping malls to avoid duplication and waste of resources at such desired locations.
- Selection of new hotspot sites should be based on human traffic which is indicative of the demand on data usage to ensure effective use of resources. Examples of which include schools and hospitals.
- Given that the hotspots are shared access, in order to enhance user experience, high speed Wi-Fi, say 1GB should be provided for public use.
- For newly built Wi-Fi infrastructure at public areas, consider sub-contracting and/or outsourcing the construction and operation of the facilities to telecom operators for saver on running and maintenance costs comparing to self-built and self-owned setup.
- Engage multiple vendors for the public Wi-Fi services instead of just involving a single vendor like what happened 3 years ago for the public Wi-Fi project to enhance the speed of rollout of additional hotspots.
- The Government’s development plan for city-wide Wi-Fi should be drawn for medium to long term, say from 5 to 8 years, so that the participating operators can arrive at a longer term investment plan accordingly.

2. Public Sector Information (“PSI”)

Currently 14 categories of PSI dataset are available for free re-use and this can also serve as a good piece of dataset to create innovative applications for new business opportunities and bring social benefits. The Government should consider offering incentive and subsidies to application developers to encourage new developments. In addition, the Government can invite information and communications technology (“ICT”) professionals to share their views and insights, as well as providing recommendations on any possible developments that could benefit the society. On the other hand, the Government can also identify new PSI dataset that can be made available for free re-use to open up lucrative business opportunities.

3. SME Cloud Services

The Government should consider setting up a fund for promotion of take-up of cloud services by the SMEs in Hong Kong. In fact, there are a number of well-established cloud services providers in Hong Kong. The Government may also consider supporting the SMEs in using cloud services through direct sponsorship and tax reduction.

Besides, the Government can also provide incentives to the cloud services providers and solution providers to encourage development of new applications and solutions. Incentives can be in the form of development funding, tax relief, innovation awards or other operational subsidies that would facilitate the vendors in starting up their own business.

4. Data Centre and Cloud Computing Hub

The Government should continue to promote Hong Kong as the regional data centre and cloud computing hub. In this connection, tax relief or reduction on capital investment can be offered to support the development of data centre business and cloud computing industry. However, since the Government has already allocated land

resources in the Tseung Kwan O area for data centres, further allocation of land resources for the purpose should be carefully reviewed. In fact, governmental support should not be limited to the provision of cheap land resources but should also consider other viable alternatives, such as granting of Government subsidies or incentive funds to encourage transformation of industrial premises into data centres.

5. Closer Collaboration with the Mainland

The Government should continue to lobby with the Central Government to further open up the domestic telecom market in China to HK-based service providers. Furthermore, the Government should provide support to local ICT and telecom service providers in establishing their infrastructure and services in the Special Economic Zone like Qianhai and Nansha.

6. Integrated Two-way e-Services & Paperless Solutions and Collaborative Platforms

The Government should take the lead as a pioneer in implementing the stated services to showcase to the public the benefits of utilising ICT and new telecom technologies to improve efficiency and productivity. Promotional propagandas should be considered to enhance public awareness on the Government's adoption of the cloud platform and other services.

The Government can further strengthen the efforts by providing incentives to the SMEs for adopting selective cloud services such as document storage, financial record storage, etc.

For public good in overall, the Government should assume a more active role to push for the utilisation of e-services in different aspects of daily life of the community at large. Examples of which include e-Healthcare, e-Traffic Management, automated office and home solutions just to name a few. Some of these e-services are currently

offered by private entities and we believe it will be beneficial to the public if the Government would look into opportunities to collaborate with relevant industry stakeholders to extend the scope and quality of such services.

Hutchison Global Communications Limited

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