

TELECOMMUNICATIONS NUMBERING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Assignment of Access Codes to New Operators of Fixed Telecommunication Network Services

Purpose

The purpose of this paper is to propose the assignment of access codes to the following new fixed telecommunication network services (FTNS) operators for the provision of access to, or the operation of, external services: Hong Kong Cable Television Limited (HKCTV) and 5 local wireless FTNS (LWFTNS) operators and 25 external fixed telecommunication network services (EFTNS) operators including 12 satellite-based operators and 13 cable-based operators with Letters of Intent issued by the Telecommunications Authority (TA).

Introduction

2. During the 34th NAC meeting, Members adopted the TA's proposal as given in NAC Paper No.14/1999 that each of the LWFTNS operators would be assigned with a 4-digit access code from the existing pool of "15xx"/"16xx" codes for the operation of external services on condition that these operators have applied for and obtained a Public Non-exclusive Telecommunication Services (PNETS) licence to cover the provision of the external services. Recently HKCTV has requested the TA to assign "005" as the access code for the provision of access services to external services. Some LWFTNS operators have also represented to the TA that they should be assigned with "00x" access codes because they are of "carrier" status similar to that of the four wireline FTNS operators.

Prime Access Codes for IDD Services

3. In the Hong Kong Numbering Plan, "001" and "002" are dedicated as prime access code for international direct dialling (IDD) voice and for IDD fax services respectively via the network the customer has chosen as his/her access line provider. These two codes are Category 3 codes that in general will not be passed across networks and are universally allocated to all operators. Since HKCTV and LWFTNS operators are providing the local customer access networks, they are entitled to use "001" and "002" in their networks.

Assignment of Access Codes for External Services operated by HKCTV and LWFTNS Operators

4. At present, "006", "007", "008" and "009" are respectively assigned to Cable & Wireless HKT Telephone (CWHKTC), New T & T Hong Kong Ltd. (New T&T), Hutchison Global Crossing Ltd (HGC) and New World Telephone Ltd. (NWT) for IDD voice/data/facsimile services in order to allow their customers to gain access to the connected international gateways directly or indirectly through their networks i.e. a customer can make IDD calls via a particular network of his/her own choice even though he/she may originate a call from another network. Since HKCTV and LWFTNS operators would provide and implement the local customer access networks similar to what the existing four wireline FTNS operators have implemented in Hong Kong, the TA considers that these new FTNS operators should have the same status and right as these existing operators to obtain an access code with leading digits "00" to operate external services.

5. There are currently only four vacant "00x" access codes ("000", "003", "004" and "005") remain unassigned. The TA proposes to assign HKCTV, each LWFTNS operator and future local FTNS operators a 4-digit access code to the international gateways out of the vacant access code range "005x". The remaining vacant "000" codes would be reserved for future expansion purpose. In general, new FTNS operators are allowed to extend the assigned 4-digit code to a maximum of 5 digits in length to cater for their service requirements.

6. There are in total 10 4-digit access codes under the above "005x" range. If Members agree to the proposal, HKCTV and the five LWFTNS operators would be invited to attend a ballot to determine which access code within the range would be assigned or reserved to each of them in accordance with the procedures as stipulated in the "Code of Practice Relating to the Use of Numbers and Codes in the Hong Kong Numbering Plan (Cap.269) (CoP)". The reserved access code would be formally allocated to them once the licensing and other regulatory formalities have been completed.

Assignment of Access Codes for External Services operated by EFTNS Operators

7. As the EFTNS licence authorises the licensee to provide external services operated over external facilities and access to the external services will be through the public switched networks or by leased circuits provided by local FTNS operators, their operations are similar to the operations of existing external telecommunication services (ETS) operators. At present, each ETS operator is allocated a "15xx/16xx" short access code for access to the external services. The TA proposes to assign to each of EFTNS operators a 4-digit access code from the existing

pool of **"15xx"/"16xx"** codes which are the same codes currently used by ETS operators for the operation of external services. In general, EFTNS operators are allowed to extend the assigned 4-digit "15xx"/"16xx" code to a maximum of 5 digits in length to cater for their service requirements.

8. Following the CoP procedures, the Office of the Telecommunications Authority (OFTA) adopts the first-come-first-served principle to assign the "15xx"/"16xx" access codes to EFTNS operators by balloting. The priority of an operator in drawing the access code will be determined by the date and time when its licence is granted by the TA.

Advice Sought

9. Members, HKCTV, LWFTNS and EFTNS operators are invited to give their views and comments on the above TA's proposals given in paragraphs 3-8 to the Secretary of the Telecommunications Numbering Advisory Committee **on or before 10 March 2000**. If the above proposals are acceptable, the TA will amend the CoP and "The Numbering Plan for Telecommunications Services in Hong Kong" in order to implement them accordingly and invite relevant operators to ballot the required access codes.

Office of the Telecommunications Authority
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