

TELECOMMUNICATIONS NUMBERING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Mobile Network Code (MNC) for Tetra System (II)

Introduction

In order to cope with the long term demand of mobile network code (MNC) for Tetra systems in Hong Kong, the TA has proposed in NAC Paper No. 11/2001 to open the number range “4xxx” in the numbering plan for MNC of private Tetra systems. The NAC Paper No. 11/2001 was circulated to members of the NAC on 26 October 2001 for comments.

2. This paper summaries the comments received and the TA’s recommendation to open a number range “40xx” for private Tetra systems.

Comments received from NAC Members

3. Three submissions were received from members of the NAC. Mr. Ronald Chiu (NAC ad personam member) supports the proposal. He considers that MNC is deployed in machine interface and hence a longer MNC would not cause inconvenience to the users. In addition, the assignment of 4-digit MNC to private Tetra systems, which would not normally have the requirement to roam with mobile networks of other standards, had the merit of reserving valuable 2-digit MNC resource. Mr. Victor Hung of the Consumer Council submits that he has no comment on the proposal.

4. Mr. Andy Cheng (representing Public Radiocommunication Service Licensees as a Group) commented that:

- MNC should be assigned to those trunked radio systems operating on the technology which require MNC.
- Taking into account of the inter-operability of Tetra systems with 2-digit and 3-digit MNC, to consider assigning 3-digit MNC to Tetra systems.
- OFTA to conduct a research on the demand for Tetra MNC. Before the result is available, a threshold (e.g. five more MNC) should be set on the maximum number of 2-digit MNC to be assigned to Tetra systems.
- No comments were received from the operators of the trunked radio systems.

TA's consideration

5. The intention of opening of a new 4-digit number range for MNC of private Tetra systems is to ensure the efficient use of the available 2-digit MNC. The TA concurs with the view of the Public Radiocommunication Service Licensees that MNC should be assigned to trunked radio systems based on their genuine need.

6. As mentioned in NAC Paper No. 11/2001, ITU Recommendation E.212 specifies that MNC of the International Mobile Station Identification (IMSI) for GSM/3G systems could be expanded into 3-digits. The assignment of 3-digit MNC to Tetra systems might have impact on the future development in the IMSI format. Nevertheless, the TA would continue to monitor the development in the requirement for MNC and consult the NAC as appropriate.

7. Regarding the demand for MNC by private Tetra systems in the near future, OFTA notes that there are three such systems in the project implementation stage while two to three systems are under the planning stage. The users of these systems are mainly from the public utilities sectors and government departments. In response to the proposal of setting a threshold of five 2-digit MNC for Tetra systems, it is therefore considered timely to introduce sufficient number resource for these systems as it is envisaged that five to six MNC would be required for private Tetra systems in the near future.

TA' Recommendation

8. Having considered the potential demand of MNC for Tetra systems in Hong Kong, the availability of MNC resource and the comments received from the NAC members, the TA recommends to open the number range "40xx" in the numbering plan for the assignment of MNC to private Tetra systems which do not have roaming requirement. For Tetra systems which have roaming requirement to network of other standards such as GSM/UMTS, the TA would consider the assignment of 2-digit MNC based on the justifications provided. Members are requested to comment on TA's recommendation.

Office of the Telecommunications Authority
November 2001