

TELECOMMUNICATIONS NUMBERING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Number Resources for Fixed Telecommunications Network Services (III)

Introduction

In order to cope with the long term demand of “900” numbers, the TA had proposed in the NAC Paper No 3/2002 to allocate smaller amount of “900” numbers to the new FTNS operators. “900” numbers have the following format : 900 S X₁ ... X₇ in which S is the service indicator whereas X₁ ... X₇ are the access numbers. It was proposed that X₃0,000 to X₃9,999 would be allocated to meet the operational need of the operator at the launch of service (i.e. 10,000 numbers for each service per operator, except for “900 3” which would be allocated with 10 numbers). Operators could apply for additional 10,000 numbers when the utilization of the allocated numbers exceeds 60%.

2. In the 45th NAC Meeting, some NAC members said that the proposal had impact on their provision of “900” services. All FTNS operators were invited to attend a meeting on 24 May 2002 to discuss the issue the impact of the proposal on the operational difficulties of the FTNS operators.

3. This paper summarizes the views expressed by the FTNS operators in the meeting and the TA’s recommendation on the allocation of the “900” numbers.

The View of FTNS Operators

4. PCCW-HKT said that the X₂ digit and X₃ digit were used to identify the information provider and in the subsequent billing purposes. Lead time would be required to implement the proposal given in the NAC Paper No 3/2002 to modify their routing and charging arrangements.

5. HGC considered that complicate routing algorithms had to be

deployed if more digits in the “900” numbers were used to identify a FTNS operator. According to NWT, the routing algorithm of most of fixed networks could handle a maximum of 5 digits.

Proposal

6. OFTA has reservation on the use of X_2 and X_3 to identify the information providers because the “900” number resources would not be used in an efficient manner under this arrangement. Having considered the operators’ views, OFTA still considers that allocation of smaller amount of “900” numbers to the new FTNS operators in their initial applications will meet their operational needs.

7. To allow sufficient time for the existing operators to make necessary modifications and to facilitate the network implementation, it is proposed that $X_1, X_2, 00,000$ to $X_1, X_2, 99,999$ will be allocated to each successful application (i.e. 100,000 numbers for each service per operator except for “900 3” which were 8-digit number and would be allocated with 100 numbers) and the unallocated “900” numbers will be allocated in the following manner. “900” numbers with $X_1 X_2 = 40, 50, 60, 70, 80$ and 90 will be allocated first to the successful applicants. After the captioned number blocks have been allocated, number blocks “900 S 91” to “900 S 99” will be opened for allocation. Subsequently, the remaining number blocks from “900 S 8” to “900 S 4” will be allocated in a similar manner. According to the CoP, operators could apply for additional 100,000 numbers when the utilization of the allocation numbers exceeds 60%.

8. On the other hand, the existing allocated “900” numbers i.e. “900 S 0000000” to “900 S 3999999” will remain unchanged.

Advice Sought

9. Members are invited to give their views and comments on this paper.

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