

Frequency Assignment for Provision of CDMA2000 Service

Statement of the Telecommunications Authority

20 November 2008

INTRODUCTION

As one of the major mobile communications standards, CDMA is widely deployed in many parts of the world, including Canada, the USA, Japan, Korea and the mainland China. In view of the expiry of the frequency assignment for the IS-95 CDMA network on 19 November 2008, which has been operating in Hong Kong since the early nineteen nineties, the Telecommunications Authority (“TA”) decided in April 2007 to assign the necessary radio spectrum in the 850 MHz band for the provision of CDMA2000 service with effect from 20 November 2008 through an open auction.

2. In August 2007, OFTA invited applications to bid for the radio spectrum for the provision of CDMA2000 service. In November 2007, OFTA announced that PCCW-HKT Telephone Limited (“PCCW”) was the successful bidder and it was required to offer CDMA2000 service with effect from 20 November 2008.

PROVISION OF CDMA2000 SERVICE

3. Under the licence, PCCW is required to provide CDMA2000 service starting from 20 November 2008 in the Golden Bowl Area¹, which primarily includes the Kowloon peninsula and the northern part of Hong Kong Island. The second phase of coverage requirement includes other strategic locations such as the road tunnels, Mass Transit Railway stations and their adjoining tunnels, the airport and border control points. PCCW is required to complete phase 2 by November 2010.

¹ The Golden Bowl Area covers the areas with Hong Kong Grid co-ordinates: Northing from 815 000m to 822 850m and Easting from 830 400m to 843 300m.

RADIO SPECTRUM ASSIGNED FOR CDMA2000

4. The frequency spectrum successfully bid by PCCW for the provision of CDMA2000 service is 825 – 832.5 MHz paired with 870 – 877.5 MHz with a bandwidth of 2 x 7.5 MHz. However, in the course of preparing the roaming arrangements with its overseas CDMA partners, PCCW found out that certain legacy models of CDMA handsets in use in these overseas countries need to operate on a particular control carrier which falls outside the frequency bands assigned to PCCW. As a result, visitors using these kinds of handsets may not be able to use the CDMA2000 roaming service in Hong Kong.

5. The control carrier which has to be used by these legacy CDMA handsets is 832.865 – 834.115 MHz paired with 877.865 – 879.115 MHz (2 x 1.25 MHz). The relevant frequency spectrum has become vacant after the termination of the IS-95 CDMA service on 19 November 2008. According to the Spectrum Release Plan for the period from 2008/09 to 2010/11, the frequency spectrum will not be assigned to other users before end 2010. To maintain the position of Hong Kong as a world city as well as the gateway between the mainland China and the world, the TA considers that it is in the public interest to ensure the continual provision of CDMA roaming service to visitors carrying the legacy CDMA phones. **The TA therefore decides to assign temporarily the spectrum of 832.865 – 834.115 MHz paired with 877.865 – 879.115 MHz to PCCW for a period of two years, from 20 November 2008 to 19 November 2010.**

6. In exchange for the right of using the spectrum of 832.865 – 834.115 MHz paired with 877.865 – 879.115 MHz (2 x 1.25 MHz), PCCW shall not use 829.995 – 831.245 MHz paired with 874.995 – 876.245 MHz (2 x 1.25 MHz) within the same period. Such an arrangement would ensure that the total amount of spectrum assigned (i.e. 2 x 7.5 MHz) to PCCW for CDMA2000 service remains the same. **The details of the frequency spectrum assignment² (see the Annex) are specified in the mobile carrier**

² The frequency assignment to PCCW for provision of CDMA2000 service in the period from 20 November 2008 to 19 November 2010 is:

870 - 874.995 MHz paired with 825 – 829.995 MHz (2 x 4.995 MHz);
876.245 - 877.5 MHz paired with 831.245 - 832.5 MHz (2 x 1.255 MHz); and
877.865 - 879.115 MHz paired with 832.865 - 834.115 MHz (2 x 1.25 MHz).

The frequency assignment to PCCW for provision of CDMA2000 service in the period from 20

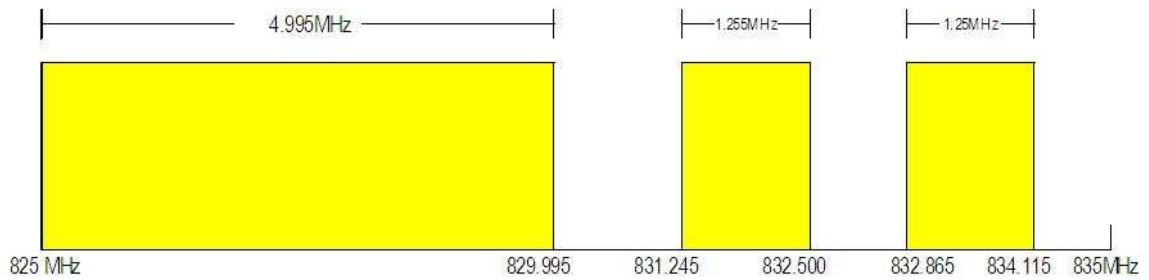
licence issued today (20 November 2008) to PCCW for the provision of CDMA2000 service. The spectrum utilization fee paid by the PCCW remains unchanged.

**Office of the Telecommunications Authority
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November 2010 to 19 November 2023 is:
870 – 877.5 MHz paired with 825 – 832.5 MHz (2 x 7.5MHz).

**Frequency Assignment to PCCW for
Provision of CDMA2000 Service**

For the Period from 20 November 2008 to 19 November 2010



For the Period from 20 November 2010 to 19 November 2023

