



Consultation on Digital Broadcasting: Mobile TV and Related Issues

Legislative Council

Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting

Meeting on 6 February 2007



Technology development

- Digital broadcasting technology continues to advance
 - Consulted the public in 2000 and 2003 on digital terrestrial broadcasting
 - Announced in 2004 the implementation framework for digital terrestrial television (DTT). DTT to commence 2007
 - Frequencies reserved for market-led development of digital audio broadcasting (DAB)





Mobile TV

- Exemplar of latest technology development and multimedia convergence
- Gaining momentum in the world
 - South Korea, UK, Italy, Japan, etc. have launched commercial mobile TV
 - Many others are conducting technical trials
- Technology advances
 - Point-to-point streaming (2.5G, 3G)
 - Point-to-multi-point broadcasting (DVB-H, T-DMB, MediaFLO)
- Operators in HK are also testing various technologies





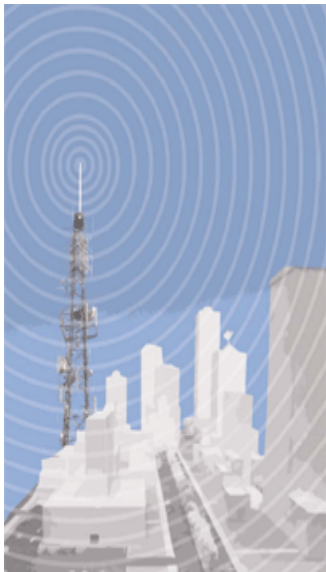
Matters for Consultation for Commercial Deployment

- Spectrum availability
- Spectrum allocation
- Spectrum assignment
- Licensing arrangements



Spectrum Availability

- Frequency bands available for mobile TV and other digital broadcasting services
 - Band III (174MHz – 230MHz)
 - L Band (1466MHz – 1480MHz)
 - UHF Band (470MHz – 806MHz)
 - Currently reserved for DTT services
 - S Band (2500MHz – 2690 MHz)
 - To assess again by end 2007





Spectrum Allocation

- Mobile TV and other digital broadcasting services (DTT, DAB) compete for available spectrum
- 3 options for spectrum allocation

- **Service-neutral approach**

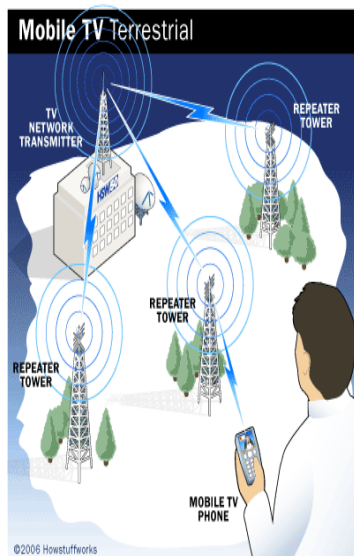
- Decided by spectrum users

- **Conventional approach**

- Frequencies allocated for specific uses

- **Pro-mobile TV approach**

- Frequencies allocated primarily for mobile TV, allowing ancillary services





Spectrum Assignment

- Market-led approach (as proposed in Spectrum Policy Review)
- Auction
 - Pre-qualification process
 - Rollout obligations as appropriate
- Spectrum utilization fee



Licensing Arrangement

- Telecommunications (Network)
 - Carrier licence required
- Broadcasting (Content)
 - Currently not licensable under the existing legislation
 - Need to consider whether to -
 - be licensed and regulated under the Broadcasting Ordinance; or
 - adopt light-handed approach, applying the Control of Obscene and Indecent Articles Ordinance





Way Forward

- From now to April 2007
 - We welcome views from the public and the industry
 - OFTA will gauge the market interest in the available spectrum by inviting expression of interest
- We will then formulate a draft implementation framework for further consultation, based on the outcome of the consultation and market interest





Thank You!

