

**For discussion
on 13 November 2006**

**Legislative Council Panel on
Information Technology and Broadcasting**

Public Consultation on the Digital 21 Strategy

PURPOSE

This paper briefs Members on the public consultation on the 2007 Digital 21 Strategy.

BACKGROUND

2. The Digital 21 Strategy is the blueprint for the development of information and communications technology (ICT) in Hong Kong. The Strategy was first published in 1998 by the Government to set out our vision of developing Hong Kong into a leading digital city in a globally connected world. The aim of the Strategy is to outline how Government, business, industry, academia and the public can work together to achieve this goal. As a living document, the Strategy was updated in 2001 and 2004.

3. The Government has made good progress in implementing the current Digital 21 Strategy (the 2004 Digital 21 Strategy). The progress made on the action items under the 2004 Strategy is summarized in the table at the Annex.

4. To take account of advances in technology and the changing needs of the community, the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer (OGCIO) has embarked on the latest round of review of the Digital 21 Strategy in 2006. We have consulted stakeholders of various sectors, including relevant Government bureaux and departments, the ICT industry, business/community organizations, academia as well as the Digital 21 Strategy

Advisory Committee (D21SAC)¹ in the process of formulating the main action areas and initiatives in the updated Strategy.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON THE 2007 DIGITAL 21 STRATEGY

5. In the light of our discussions with stakeholders, the Government prepared a draft 2007 Digital 21 Strategy for consulting the wider community before finalizing the Strategy. The consultation document was released on 18 October 2006 for public consultation for two months until 18 December 2006. The theme underpinning the 2007 Digital 21 Strategy is “continuing to build on our strengths through technology across the community”, with the objective of strengthening Hong Kong’s position as a world digital city. To lay the foundation for ICT development in Hong Kong in the next decade, the new Strategy identifies five key action areas for implementation between 2007-2010. The five key action areas are -

(a) Facilitating a digital economy

The Government will continue to play a significant role in supporting and facilitating ICT development.

(b) Promoting advanced technology and innovation

Hong Kong needs to harness technology in enabling the economy to move up the value chain and stay competitive in the global market.

(c) Developing Hong Kong as a hub for technological cooperation and trade

Hong Kong should position itself to exploit the opportunities arising from the rapid economic development on the Mainland and the emphasis placed on autonomous innovation in the National 11th Five-Year Plan.

(d) Enabling the next generation of public services

The Government will continue its efforts to deepen and broaden the e-government programme so as to provide more convenient and better

¹ The D21SAC, chaired by the Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology and comprises non-official members from the industry, business community and academia, advises the Government on the strategies, programmes and measures for the attainment and furtherance of goals and objectives set out in the Digital 21 Strategy.

public services, and to encourage the public and the business sector to conduct business through the electronic channel.

(e) Building an inclusive, knowledge-based society

The objective is to ensure that the benefits of ICT adoption are widely available to different segments of the community, including the under-privileged, so as to move Hong Kong towards an inclusive, knowledge-based society.

6. We have sent out around 150 letters to industry and community organizations inviting their views and comments on the draft Strategy. We have also distributed pamphlets capturing major initiatives under the Strategy through different channels such as the Home Affairs Department, Leisure and Cultural Services Department, Cyberport, the Hong Kong Science Park and professional bodies to publicize the public consultation exercise. In addition, the Digital 21 website has been updated to include the public consultation document. A copy of the public consultation document on the 2007 Digital 21 Strategy, including an executive summary, is enclosed for Members' perusal.

WAY FORWARD

7. After considering comments received from the public, we aim to publish the 2007 Digital 21 Strategy within the first half of 2007.

8. We welcome Members' comments on the draft Strategy.

**Office of the Government Chief Information Officer
Commerce, Industry and Technology Bureau
November 2006**

Summary of Progress on Action Items under the 2004 Digital 21 Strategy

	<u>Item</u>	<u>Progress</u>
(A) Government Leadership		
1.	Conduct the Digital 21 Strategy Review with a view to launching public consultation on the updated Strategy in late 2006 and promulgate the finalized Strategy in 2007.	A two-month public consultation was launched in October 2006. We aim to publish the 2007 Digital 21 Strategy during the first half of 2007.
2.	Complete outsourcing of the central computer centre operation	Completed in September 2006.
3.	Set up a new governance mechanism for Government IT projects	A new governance mechanism has been implemented with effect from April 2006.
4.	Commence the three-year pilot scheme to open up intellectual property (IP) ownership in Government IT systems	In 2006, OGCIO has introduced a number of measures to facilitate the pilot implementation of opening up IP ownership in Government IT systems. These measures include provision of guidelines, making available sample contract terms and conditions, as well as provision of advice and assistance to B/Ds in the pilot implementation. B/Ds have started to adopt terms and conditions for opening up IP ownership in tendering exercises for new IT systems.
(B) Sustainable e-Government Programme		
5.	Set up a Service Transformation Sub-Committee under the E-government Steering Committee	The Service Transformation Sub-Committee was set up in March 2006.

	<u>Item</u>	<u>Progress</u>
6.	Complete the Study on Business Case for Service Transformation Enabled by ICT	The study is in progress. We aim to complete the study before end of 2006.
7.	Under the new strategy for e-government service delivery: (a) Soft launch the One-Stop Access Portal (OSP); (b) Complete migration of existing e-government services on the Electronic Service Delivery Scheme to the OSP	(a) GovHK (the new OSP) was soft-launched on 6 September 2006. (b) We target to complete the migration by end of 2007.
8.	Promulgate the Channel Management Strategy	The Channel Management Strategy will take into account the recommendations of the Study on Business Case for Service Transformation Enabled by ICT (scheduled for completion in late 2006) and the suggestions on service delivery channels received in the Expression of Interest (EOI) exercise on private sector participation in GovHK (scheduled for completion in early 2007). We aim to promulgate the Channel Management Strategy at a suitable time in 2007, when citizens are more familiar with the use of GovHK.
9.	Assist the Rating and Valuation Department and the Land Registry in implementing the Property Information Hub	Aim to launch the tendering exercise for the Property Information Hub in 2007.
10.	Work out the way forward for the e-Procurement Strategy	OGCIO will collaborate with some pilot departments to conduct a pilot project to take forward the e-procurement initiatives recommended by the consultancy study. We plan to complete the pilot project in mid-2009

	<u>Item</u>	<u>Progress</u>
		and conduct a review afterwards to devise a detailed plan for service-wide implementation.
11.	Using smart ID cards for (a) booking sports and leisure facilities and (b) checking driving licence data	(a) Aim to commence in late 2007. (b) Aim to commence in 2008.
12.	Conduct a study to explore further value-added applications on smart ID cards	We will implement pilot infrastructural authentication service using the smart ID cards and commence a proof-of-concept service in 2007/08.
(C) Infrastructure and Business Environment		
13.	ATV and TVB to (a) launch digital terrestrial television (DTT) services, including high-definition television and (b) achieve 75% digital DTT coverage	<p>The target implementation dates in respect of (a) and (b) are 2007 and 2008 respectively.</p> <p>The two domestic free television programme service licensees, ATV and TVB, are embarking on network planning, design and construction as well as transmission tests. The Office of the Telecommunications Authority (OFTA) has been leading two working groups with the two licensees to handle all technical issues related to network construction, transmission and reception of DTT as well as receiving equipment. The Government has also commenced publicity campaigns, including launching a dedicated website (www.digitaltv.gov.hk), to raise public awareness of DTT. We will mount more publicity activities in the run-up to the launch of DTT.</p>
14.	Complete withdrawal of mandatory Type II interconnection for local fixed-line	The target completion date of the withdrawal of mandatory Type II

	<u>Item</u>	<u>Progress</u>
	telecommunications network services	interconnection for local fixed-line telecommunications network services is June 2008. In the run-up to June 2008, the withdrawal would be implemented on a building-by-building basis and would apply to buildings which have already been connected to at least two self-built customer access networks (“CANs”). To ensure smooth implementation of this policy, OFTA has organized a number of forums and working groups for the industry.
15.	Identify more industry sectors for inclusion in Sector-Specific Programmes (SSPs)	An EOI exercise for commissioning projects for more sectors under the 2006-07 SSPs is being conducted for completion in November 2006. More SSP projects will be rolled out starting from early 2007.
16.	Conduct a Request for Proposal exercise to invite the private sector to participate in running the e-Cert services of Hongkong Post Certification Authority (HKPCA)	An open tendering exercise was launched in June 2006 to invite interested parties of the private sector to run HKPCA’s e-Cert services. A successful tenderer was selected and the contract was awarded in November 2006. The contractor aims to take over HKPCA’s operation in April 2007.
17.	Introduce the Unsolicited Electronic Messages Bill into LegCo	The Bill was introduced into LegCo in July 2006. It is now being scrutinized by a Bills Committee formed by LegCo.
(D) Institutional Review		
18.	Consult the public on the setting up of a unified regulator by merging the	Public consultation was conducted in March-June 2006. The responses

	<u>Item</u>	<u>Progress</u>
	Broadcasting Authority and the Telecommunications Authority	were generally positive, and CITB is fine-tuning the details of the proposal in the light of the views collected. We plan to introduce the legislative bill into the Legislative Council in the 2006-07 legislative year for the establishment of the unified regulator.
19.	Review the institutional framework of the Internet domain name administration regime	A consultancy study on the institutional framework and corporate governance for the administration of Internet domain names was completed, and recommendations were made on how the existing framework and arrangements can be improved. These recommendations will be implemented progressively after we consult the industry in early 2007.
(E) Technological Development		
20.	Set up five R&D centres	Completed in April 2006
21.	Complete “3G Cyberport” project	Completed in September 2006
(F) Vibrant IT Industry		
22.	Continue to support System Integration Qualification Certification Scheme	On-going
23.	Launch and announce results of the 1 st Hong Kong ICT Awards	The scheme was launched in April 2006 and the results will be announced in November 2006.
(G) Human Resources in a Knowledge Economy		
24.	Develop the first set of Specification of Competency Standards (SCS) for the ICT industry	OGCIO is collaborating with the ICT Industry Training Advisory Committee (ITAC) in developing a set of SCS for the ICT industry under the Qualifications Framework. It is

	<u>Item</u>	<u>Progress</u>
		expected that the SCS for the Software Products and Software Services Sector will be available for public consultation in late 2006/early 2007.
(H) Bridging the Digital Divide		
25.	Plan and develop a new series of digital inclusion programmes	A new series of digital inclusion programmes will be developed in late 2006/early 2007.
26.	Complete an impact analysis study on the degree of digital inclusiveness in Hong Kong	Completed in July 2006.
27.	Develop a new series of publicity materials and radio programme to promote IT in the community	A series of radio programme about security tips on data and computer protection is being broadcast from July 2006 to March 2007. A CD-ROM has been produced to promote web accessibility to the community.