

**Summary of the submission from Asia Satellite Telecommunications
Co. Ltd. on the Consultation Paper on 1998 Review of Television
Policy -
Comments relating to the Subject Matters of the Broadcasting Bill**

Individuals/
Organisations

Comments

Asia Satellite
Telecommunications
Co. Ltd.

Licensing and regulation

- There should be a distinction between pay and free non-domestic television programme services. If they are free, they should not need to apply for a licence.
- The emphasis of multi-media services (including Internet) originating in Hong Kong is unnecessary, instead what is more important is their target market. The point of uplink is also irrelevant and confusing. If the service is marketed in Hong Kong then it should be licensed. This will attract international multimedia services providers to uplink in Hong Kong even if they are not targeting Hong Kong. In addition, the demarcation between television and television on the web is not clear. A licence under a broader category of broadcast is recommended.
- Foreign programmers/service providers should not be required to have a 'television service licence' if they market their pay services through an existing licensed (cable, DTH or other) platform in Hong Kong.

Ownership and investment restrictions

- Welcomes the proposal that some discretion is necessary to exclude those associates of disqualified persons whom the Government is satisfied that they do not act together in any

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relevant dealings. If the dominant shareholder of a FTNS licensee does not enjoy a dominant role on the board or management of another company, the latter should not fall into the definition of a 'disqualified person'.

Legislation

- Legislation must mandate equal access for cable, satellite and other delivery means.

Competition provisions

- Positive intervention is required by the Government to achieve strong competition in both the telecommunications and broadcast sectors.