

Press Releases of August 2003

Press Release

OFTA Invites Public Views on the
Proposed Merger Guidelines for Hong Kong Telecommunications Markets

The Office of the Telecommunications Authority (OFTA) today (4 August 2003) issued a consultation paper to invite public views on the proposed merger guidelines which explain how the Telecommunications Authority (TA) will apply and enforce the new Telecommunications (Amendment) Ordinance 2003.

The new Telecommunications (Amendment) Ordinance 2003 aims to provide a comprehensive and clear legislative framework for the regulation of merger and acquisition activities in the telecommunications market. This would help promote fair and effective competition in the market to protect consumers' interests as well as to facilitate businesses to make informed decisions on mergers and acquisitions.

"The proposed guidelines specify the matters the TA will take into account in considering mergers and acquisitions under the new legislation. The guidelines set out the analytical framework which the TA intends to adopt to assess the competition effects of a merger or acquisition, including the approach he will use for the crucial step of defining the relevant market, and for considering the benefits to the public in case there is a competition concern. The guidelines also explain the procedures which the TA will follow in investigating both proposed and completed mergers," a spokesperson of the OFTA said.

"The TA will conduct the consultation in a thorough and highly transparent manner. All views received will be carefully considered and taken into account before the TA finalizes the guidelines. We aim to issue the finalized guidelines in the fourth quarter of 2003," the spokesperson continued.

The consultation will last for 8 weeks until 29 September 2003. Interested parties are invited to submit comments by that day. A copy of the consultation paper and the proposed guidelines can now be downloaded from OFTA's website at www.ofta.gov.hk.

Office of the Telecommunications Authority
4 August 2003