

For discussion
on 3 May 2016

Legislative Council Panel on Security

**Computer Systems at the New Control Point at the
Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge
Hong Kong Boundary Crossing Facilities
under the Immigration Department**

PURPOSE

This paper seeks Members' support for the Immigration Department (ImmD)'s proposal to install computer systems for supporting its operations at the new control point at Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge (HZMB) Hong Kong Boundary Crossing Facilities (HKBCF).

BACKGROUND

2. On 18 November 2011, the Finance Committee (FC) of the Legislative Council (LegCo) approved the funding of \$30,433.9 million in money-of-the-day prices for the construction of the HZMB HKBCF.¹ The scope of the project includes, amongst others, the construction of passenger clearance facilities (including processing kiosks and examination facilities for private cars and coaches, passenger clearance building, etc.) and cargo clearance facilities (including processing kiosks and examination facilities for goods vehicles, cargo examination platforms, etc.). As mentioned in the above funding proposal, separate funding from the FC for installing computer systems to support ImmD's operation at the HZMB HKBCF will be sought under the Capital Works Reserve Fund Head 710 – Computerisation².

¹ FC further approved an increase of the approved project estimate from \$30,433.9 million to \$35,895.0 million in money-of-the-day prices on 30 January 2016. See FCR(2015-16)45.

² See footnote 10 of PSWC(2011-12)30.

JUSTIFICATIONS

3. According to the Transport and Housing Bureau, the latest assessment of the Highways Department is that the HZMB local projects (including the HKBCF project) are anticipated to be completed by end 2017. As in other existing control points, ImmD has to install the immigration control system at the new control point in order to conduct immigration clearance there. Such system will include 73 e-Channels and 96 traditional counters for clearance of in- and out-bound passengers, as well as 72 vehicular kiosks (40 of which to be equipped with automated vehicle clearance facilities) for clearance of in- and out-bound vehicles.

4. As in other existing control points, ImmD also needs to install, in addition to the immigration control system, six of its other computer systems at the new control point to support its operations at the back office. These include –

- (a) verifying the authenticity of various types of travel documents;
- (b) verifying the application status of visas, permits and travel passes relating to the passengers;
- (c) providing effective and efficient means for file and mail exchanges in electronic form between the new control point and ImmD headquarters; and
- (d) automating the processing, maintenance and storage of administrative records.

5. The functions and key components of the above systems are summarized at Annex.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Capital Expenditure

6. It is estimated that the implementation of the proposed project will incur a total capital expenditure of \$168,548,000 over three financial years from 2016-17 to 2018-19. The breakdown is as follows –

Items	(\$'000)			
	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	Total
(a) Hardware	-	12,982	75,325	88,307
(b) Software	-	2,785	12,387	15,172
(c) Communication Network	14	317	-	331
(d) Implementation and contract staff services	427	7,393	29,353	37,173
(e) Site Preparation	109	6,591	5,542	12,242
(f) Contingency	55	3,007	12,261	15,323
Total	605	33,075	134,868	168,548

Other Non-recurrent Expenditure

7. The implementation of the proposed project will require a project team for project management, procurement of hardware, software and services, system analysis and design, site preparation, user acceptance tests, implementation support, etc. This will entail a non-recurrent staff cost of some \$11 million from 2016-17 to 2017-18. ImmD will review the staffing requirement nearer the time and include the provision in the annual Estimates of the respective year.

Recurrent Cost

8. The proposed project will entail an indicative annual recurrent expenditure of \$273,000 in 2017-18, increasing to \$24.61 million in 2019-20 onwards. This expenditure covers the costs of hardware and software maintenance, communications network, system maintenance and additional staffing required. Such requirements will be reflected in the annual Estimates of the relevant years, with the breakdown as follows-

Items	(\$'000)		
	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20 & onwards
(a) Hardware & Software Maintenance		4,965	18,081
(b) Communication Network	138	328	328
(c) System Maintenance		1,470	5,659
(d) Staff Cost	135	539	539
Total	273	7,302	24,607

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

9. Subject to Members' comments on the proposal, we plan to seek funding approval from the FC as soon as possible. If the funding approval is obtained, we plan to implement the proposed project according to the following schedule –

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Target Completion Date</u>
Tendering	Q4/2016
System Development and Implementation	
System Analysis and Design	Q1/2017
System Development and Testing	Q2/2017
User Acceptance Test	Q3/2017
System Installation	Q4/2017
Production Roll-out	Q4/2017

ADVICE SOUGHT

10. Members' views are invited on the above proposal to install computer systems at the new control point at the HZMB HKBCF and our plan to seek funding approval from the FC.

Security Bureau
April 2016

**Brief description of the computer systems
for the New Control Point for the Hong Kong Boundary Crossing Facilities of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge**

<p>Systems supporting the operation of counters and e-Channels</p>	<p><u>Immigration Control System (ICONS)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● ICONS ensures provision of uninterrupted, quality, and mission-critical immigration clearance services. It will enhance immigration clearance efficiency and effectiveness through further deployment of e-Channels and introduction of self-service departure for visitors holding electronic travel documents; improve immigration control through face recognition technology; and strengthen the overall resilience of control point operation by flexible allocation and sharing of computer resources through adopting cloud computing and virtualisation technology, etc. It will also achieve synergy in the areas of IT resources utilisation, system monitoring, data processing, and flexible deployment of manpower resources, etc.● At the new control point, apart from ICONS workstations installed at the traditional counters to support manned immigration clearance, passenger and vehicular e-Channels will be set up to enable self-service immigration clearance.
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<p>Systems supporting the operation of back offices</p>	<p><u>Electronic Documentation of Information System on Network (EDISON)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• EDISON is a data storage and retrieval system that keeps an archive of high quality colour images featuring the security characteristics of various types of travel documents.• At the new control point, EDISON workstations will be installed to facilitate immigration officers to detect forged foreign travel documents by providing high-resolution colour digitised images of genuine travel document specimens stored in the system. <p><u>Application and Investigation Easy System (APPLIES)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• APPLIES is an electronic records system which supports the handling of investigation cases and applications for visas, permits, travel passes, etc. and the related record management through electronic means.• At the new control point, APPLIES workstations will be installed to help handling investigation cases and to enable on-line record checks of the application status of visas, permits and travel passes relating to the passengers concerned on a real-time basis.
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Smart Identity Card System (SMARTICS)

- SMARTICS supports the processing, personalisation and issuing of Hong Kong smart identity cards and the related record management.
- At the new control point, SMARTICS workstations will be installed to enable on-line record checks so as to help verifying the authenticity of Hong Kong identity cards held by passengers and the identities of passengers.

Government Office Automation (GOA) System

- The GOA System enables speedy communication and dissemination of information through electronic means within ImmD as well as among bureaux and departments of the HKSAR Government.
- At the new control point, GOA workstations will be installed to provide an effective and efficient means for communication in electronic form between the new control point and other offices.

Electronic Records (Administrative) System (e-Records (Adm))

- e-Records (Adm) is an electronic records and document management system which supports the handling of administrative records through electronic means.
- At the new control point, e-Records (Adm) will run on the GOA workstations to automate the processing, maintenance and storage of administrative records, such as general circulars.

Electronic Passport System (e-Passport)

- e-Passport supports the processing, personalisation and issuing of HKSAR travel documents and the related record management.
- At the new control point, e-Passport will run on the e-Passport workstations to conduct on-line record check on HKSAR travel documents.