

For Immediate Release

Statement in Response to Issues Raised by OFCA

(Hong Kong, 12 March 2014) Hong Kong Television Network Limited (“HKTV”) today issued the following statement in response to issues raised by the Office of the Communications Authority (“OFCA”).

1. Scope of Service for Mobile TV

- HKTV plans to provide mobile TV services in accordance to licence conditions, and has never requested to provide services beyond the scope
- However, in reality, it is impossible to guarantee that the receiving side resides on moving locations or fixed locations with existing technology
- “Schedule 1” of our licence states that :
 - “a “moving location” includes, without limitation, the following –
 - (a) Mobile station of a customer of the service; and...

a “mobile station” includes any apparatus using the technology of a mobile station for a mobile customer but being installed at a fixed location; and

2. The Definition of 5,000 “Specified Premises” under Broadcasting Ordinance

- We requested OFCA to explain, with the same transmission frequency, why the transmission via DTMB technology can lead to the service to be available for reception for more than 5,000 “specified premises, and by what means the availability of reception can be avoided for transmission with CMMB or DVB technology?
- Most TV sets in Hong Kong are equipped with built-in receiver. We wonder if OFCA knows that at least one TV manufacturer is considering, whichever transmission technology to be chosen by HKTV, they will include that type of receiver in their products. This is possible in the coming 12 years, when our mobile TV service licence remains valid. HKTV has wrote to OFCA in relation to this, when built-in receivers are common in TV sets in future, would HKTV be required to apply for a broadcasting licence or switch transmission technology. So far, we have not heard from OFCA.

3. Visual Quality Issue

- OFCA today said that the resolution of visual on mobile phones is not comparable to TV, and therefore, mobile TV service does not require high quality visual. However, most of the smartphones today can handle high definition display, and videos on YouTube can reach as high as 1080i standard
- According to Communications Authority, no approval has been made on our technical proposal submitted in 2010. If this is the case, if City Telecom won in the bidding of mobile TV spectrum, the technology stated in the proposal cannot be deployed?

4. Chronology

- OFCA has indeed suggested HKTV to use DVB technology in the meeting on 24 January 2014, but such suggestion appears only on meeting minutes. HKTV has repeatedly requested for a written confirmation but is ignored
- According to the legal ground of OFCA, if DTMB cannot be used, why can HKTV use DVB? We have made several written requests to OFCA for clarification and confirmation, but no concrete reply was received so far
- HKTV has enquired about the policy intent, as previous documents confirmed that mobile TV service will not be regulated by Broadcasting Ordinance. OFCA eventually has issued a formal reply yesterday

5. Is there any solution?

- All In-Building Coaxial Cable Distribution Systems (IBCCDS) are deemed to be Class Licensee, which are only allowed to receive terrestrial TV and sound service signals, but not mobile TV service signals
- 90% of Class Licensees in Hong Kong follow such regulation
- If OFCA exercises its power to educate the public and to take appropriate actions against illegal signal receiving, mobile TV service signals will not be able to reach “specified premises”
- Otherwise, no matter what technology HKTV to deploy, may result in the violation of Broadcasting Ordinance now, or in the future

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For more information of HKTV, please visit www.hktv.com.hk.

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