

## **Guidelines for Submission of Applications for Services-Based Operator Licence**

**16 December 2022 (Issue 22)**

### **Section I – Introduction**

- 1.1 These Guidelines are issued under section 6D(2)(a) of the Telecommunications Ordinance (Cap. 106) (“Ordinance”). They indicate the manner in which the Communications Authority (“CA”) proposes to perform its function of determining applications for services-based operator licence (“SBO Licence”). These Guidelines should be read in conjunction with relevant CA Statements, and other policies and regulatory documents hereafter referred to.
- 1.2 All applications will be evaluated on their merits having regard to the information provided as required in Section IV and to the broad licensing criteria outlined in Section V of these Guidelines.
- 1.3 The applicants should use their best endeavours to ensure that all information contained in their applications and any other subsequent submissions and representations are correct and accurate in all respects, in reliance upon which the CA will consider the applications. Failure to provide true, accurate and complete information may lead to rejection or revocation of the licence granted.
- 1.4 Applicants may submit applications and the required supporting documents under confidential cover to the Office of the Communications Authority (“OFCA”) at the following address. The application form is available at:

<https://www.coms-auth.hk/filemanager/common/licensing/A825.pdf>.

Office of the Communications Authority  
29/F, Wu Chung House  
213 Queen’s Road East  
Wan Chai, Hong Kong  
(Attn.: Principal Regulatory Affairs Manager, Regulatory 21)

Alternatively, applications can be made through the online application platform at: <https://eform.cefs.gov.hk/form/oca005/en/>.

- 1.5 Applicants will receive acknowledgement of receipt of applications within 14 working days. The CA may request the applicants to provide additional information to clarify or supplement the applications submitted. Upon receipt of all required information, the CA will process the applications with a view to approving in principle the grant of SBO Licence within three months.
- 1.6 The CA reserves the right to disclose the names of the parties who have submitted applications. All other information received will be treated in confidence. Where the CA proposes to disclose any information of the applications and it considers that the disclosure would result in the release of sensitive information concerning business or commercial or financial affairs of the relevant parties, the CA will give the relevant parties an opportunity to make representations on the proposed disclosure before its final decision on whether or not to disclose such information, in full or in part.
- 1.7 Nothing in these Guidelines should be taken to bind the CA on the granting of any licence, the terms of any licence to be granted, or any particular course of action in relation to the handling of applications submitted. The CA reserves the right not to accept any application submitted.

## Section II – Licensing and Regulatory Framework

### The Broad Framework

- 2.1 In Hong Kong, public telecommunications services can be provided either by facilities-based operators or services-based operators. Facilities-based operators refer to operators which are authorised to establish and maintain telecommunications networks and facilities which may cross unleased Government land and public streets, for the provision of public telecommunications services. At present, facilities-based operators are generally licensed under unified carrier licence (“UCL”). For details about application for UCL, please refer to the “*Guidelines for Submission of Applications for Unified Carrier Licence*”<sup>1</sup>. On the other hand, services-based operators are not authorised to establish or maintain telecommunications means which cross unleased Government land or public streets, and have to make use of the networks and facilities established by licensed facilities-based operators for the provision of public telecommunications services.
- 2.2 The SBO Licence is the single licensing vehicle for licensing and regulation of all types of SBO services.

### Scope of Service

- 2.3 The SBO Licence covers the following types of services. A detailed description of each is given in **Annex 1** –
- (a) Class 1 services: Local voice telephony services assigned with numbers from the “*Numbering Plan for Telecommunications Services in Hong Kong*” (“Numbering Plan”)<sup>2</sup> and provided to fixed and/or mobile customers, that essentially have all the attributes of the conventional telephone services and are subject to the same/similar licence obligations applicable to carrier licensees for the provision of conventional telephone services;

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<sup>1</sup> The guidelines are available at:  
<https://www.coms-auth.hk/en/licensing/telecommunications/carrier/index.html>.

<sup>2</sup> The Numbering Plan is available at:  
[https://www.ofca.gov.hk/filemanager/ofca/en/content\\_311/no\\_plan.pdf](https://www.ofca.gov.hk/filemanager/ofca/en/content_311/no_plan.pdf).

- (b) Class 2 services: Local voice telephony services provided to fixed and/or mobile customers, that are not necessarily assigned with numbers from the Numbering Plan and do not have all the attributes of the conventional telephone services and are subject to minimal licensing conditions aiming primarily to protect consumer interests; and
- (c) Class 3 services:
  - (i) External telecommunications services (“ETS”);
  - (ii) International value-added network services (“IVANS”) (including Internet access services);
  - (iii) Mobile virtual network operator (“MVNO”) services;
  - (iv) Public radio communications relay (“RELAY”) services;
  - (v) Teleconferencing (“TELECON”) services;
  - (vi) Private payphone services (“PPS”);
  - (vii) Security and fire alarm signals transmission (“ALARM”) services;
  - (viii) Mobile communications services on board an aircraft (“MCA”) services;
  - (ix) Any other services designated by the CA as “Class 3 services”.

2.4 An applicant may apply to provide multiple services as depicted in paragraph 2.3 under a single SBO Licence. For example, the provision of both ETS and IVANS may be authorised under a single SBO Licence, which may further authorise the licensee to provide also Class 1 and/or Class 2 services.

2.5 For the avoidance of doubt, unless otherwise authorised under a separate licence, an SBO licensee is only authorised to provide services in accordance with the scope of service as specified in Schedule 1 of its

licence. If an SBO licensee intends to expand the scope of service under its existing licence, it should apply to the CA.

### **Local Voice Telephony Services (Class 1 and Class 2 Services)**

2.6 Whilst Class 1 and Class 2 services are both internal telecommunications services for carrying real-time voice communications which may be integrated with other types of communications, they differ in the following major aspects –

- (a) Class 1 services are assigned with numbers from the Numbering Plan and the prefixes should conform as follows –
  - (i) for Class 1 services provided to fixed customers, the numbers with prefixes for conventional fixed network numbers (e.g. ‘2’ or ‘3’) should be used; and
  - (ii) for Class 1 services provided to mobile customers, the numbers with prefixes for conventional mobile network numbers (e.g. ‘4’, ‘5(1-7,9)’, ‘6’, ‘7’, ‘8’, or ‘9’) should be used;
- (b) Class 2 services are not necessarily assigned with numbers from the Numbering Plan. Where Class 2 services are assigned with numbers from the Numbering Plan, the numbers with prefix ‘58’ should be used;
- (c) SBO licensees authorised for the provision of Class 2 services assigned with numbers from the Numbering Plan (and where appropriate its agents, contractors and resellers) are required to declare in all promotion, marketing or advertising materials concerning such services that they are “Class 2” services;
- (d) Class 1 services and Class 2 services assigned with numbers from the Numbering Plan are required to allow customers to make and receive calls to and from parties assigned with numbers from the Numbering Plan; and
- (e) SBO licensees providing Class 1 services are required to facilitate number portability, provide directory service to customers and

publish a customer charter. SBO licensees providing Class 2 services are not imposed with such obligations.

- 2.7 More details on the regulatory obligations for the provision of Class 1 and Class 2 services under the SBO Licence are given below.

### *Hosting and Interconnection*

- 2.8 An SBO licensee offering Class 1 services and/or Class 2 services assigned with numbers from the Numbering Plan is required under its licence to ensure any-to-any (“A2A”) connectivity, i.e. any customer in any one network can enjoy seamless and transparent access to any other customer in any interconnecting network and, where directed by the CA, to any telecommunications service offered in any interconnecting network. While the licence condition concerned is applicable to all types of telecommunications services, the CA has so far applied the requirement of A2A connectivity to voice services only.
- 2.9 In gaining access to the conventional public switched telephone network, an SBO licensee offering Class 1 services and/or Class 2 services assigned with numbers from the Numbering Plan should seek a hosting connection to the network of at least one carrier licensee. The carrier licensee hosting an SBO licensee for the provision of the services to fixed customers is generally a fixed network operator (“FNO”) holding a UCL with authorisation to provide fixed services. The carrier licensee hosting an SBO licensee for the provision of the services to mobile customers may be an FNO, or a mobile network operator (“MNO”) holding a UCL with authorisation to provide mobile services provided that the MNO is also authorised under its licence to provide ‘transit’ service or fixed services in general. This hosting carrier licensee will be responsible for the routing of the traffic of the services of the SBO licensee being hosted to and from the networks of other carrier licensees. The terms and conditions of the interconnection agreement(s) between the SBO licensee and its hosting carrier licensee(s) will be negotiated on a commercial basis. As there are multiple FNOs and MNOs in the market, market forces should ensure that SBO licensees have fair access to the networks and the CA is not expected to intervene unless it is in the public interest to do so.

## *Use of Numbers*

- 2.10 Pursuant to section 32F of the Ordinance, the Numbering Plan is administered by the CA. To ensure the efficient allocation and use of numbers and codes for telecommunications networks/services which meet up-to-date requirements of the telecommunications industry, the CA issues a “*Code of Practice Relating to the Use of Numbers and Codes in the Hong Kong Numbering Plan*” (“Numbering CoP”)<sup>3</sup> for the purpose of providing guidance to the telecommunications network operators and service providers to whom the CA has delegated the administration of part of the Numbering Plan. SBO licensees should comply with the Numbering Plan and the Numbering CoP.
- 2.11 Numbers for Class 1 and Class 2 services, if applicable, will be directly allocated by the CA to SBO licensees upon request. The Numbering CoP stipulates that the SBO licensees providing Class 1 services and/or Class 2 services assigned with numbers from the Numbering Plan should not sell or pass such numbers to overseas operators for assignment to their customers, and should maintain a direct supplier-customer relationship with the end-users assigned with the numbers and codes in the Numbering Plan.

## *Number Portability*

- 2.12 SBO licensees offering Class 1 services are required to facilitate fixed number portability (also known as operator number portability (“ONP”)) and mobile number portability (“MNP”) at their own expenses. In view of the technical complexity of setting up an administration database (“AD”) and interconnecting with other relevant parties to facilitate number portability, SBO licensees offering Class 1 services are expected to enter into commercial arrangements with their hosting carrier licensees to fulfil this licence obligation, instead of building their own AD.
- 2.13 Currently, SBO licensees offering Class 2 services assigned with numbers from the Numbering Plan are not required to facilitate ONP or MNP.

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<sup>3</sup> The Numbering CoP is available at:  
[https://www.coms-auth.hk/filemanager/statement/en/upload/385/cop-numbering\\_e.pdf](https://www.coms-auth.hk/filemanager/statement/en/upload/385/cop-numbering_e.pdf).

### *Emergency Service*

- 2.14 SBO licensees offering Class 1 services and/or Class 2 services assigned with numbers from the Numbering Plan are required to provide a public emergency service such that any member of the public may, at any time and without incurring any charge, by means of compatible apparatus connected to the system of the SBO licensee, communicate as quickly as practicable with the Hong Kong Police Emergency Centre or other entities as directed by the CA to report an emergency. If an SBO licensee provides Class 2 services assigned with numbers from the Numbering Plan and the services are with inbound calling capability only, it may apply to the CA for exemption from providing the emergency service. SBO licensees offering Class 2 services assigned with numbers from the Numbering Plan exempted from the requirement of emergency service are required to indicate the non-provision of emergency service in all promotion, marketing and advertising materials offering service to the customers and obtain their explicit consent on the non-provision of emergency service before providing service to them.
- 2.15 To facilitate the provision of emergency service in an effective, efficient and prompt manner, an SBO licensee offering Class 1 services and/or Class 2 services assigned with numbers from the Numbering Plan in providing access to emergency service is required to provide, to the extent which is technically feasible and practicable, location information of callers making emergency calls at the time when the call is made, free of charge to the Hong Kong Police Force, the Fire Services Department and other relevant Government agencies handling the emergency service.

### *Backup Power Supply*

- 2.16 An SBO licensee offering Class 1 services and/or Class 2 services assigned with numbers from the Numbering Plan must not provide the service to users whose “lifeline devices” are connected to the service unless there is backup power supply to maintain continuity of the service without any deterioration in quality of the service during interruption of mains power supply on the customers’ premises, to the network, or to any system or equipment delivering the service to the customers. A “lifeline device” means a medical alarm or any other device for the elderly, infirm or invalid to summon assistance in the event of an



emergency without having to key in manually the number of the emergency service.

- 2.17 Where no backup power supply is available, the licensee is required to confirm with its customers, before or upon subscription of service, that the service will not be used by lifeline users or connected with lifeline devices. Furthermore, the licensee is also required to affix a label onto the wall socket panel or any equipment installed on the customers' premises, or take other reasonable steps (such as a cautionary remark in telephone bills) to remind the customers that the service is not suitable for connection to lifeline devices.
- 2.18 For the avoidance of doubt, Class 2 services not assigned with numbers from the Numbering Plan are not subject to requirement of backup power supply as set out in paragraphs 2.16 and 2.17 above.

#### *Directory Service*

- 2.19 The provision of telephonic directory service is a mandatory requirement for Class 1 services provided to fixed customers. SBO licensees providing Class 1 services to fixed customers are required to make commercial arrangements with their hosting FNOs to fulfil their obligations of providing the telephonic directory service. There is no requirement for the SBO licensee to provide printed directory for its customers.

#### *Customer Charter*

- 2.20 An SBO licensee offering Class 1 services is required to prepare a customer charter which sets out the minimum standards of service to the licensee's customers and gives guidance to the employees of the licensee in their relations and dealings with customers unless a waiver in writing is granted by the CA.

### **Class 3 Services**

#### *External Telecommunications Services (ETS)*

- 2.21 An SBO licensee providing ETS is required to pay to the local FNOs or MNOs relevant interconnection charges, including but not limited to –

- (a) local access charge (“LAC”); and
- (b) access charge or origination charge for interconnection necessary for the provision of international call forwarding service,

as may be specified by the CA in the relevant statements and regulatory guides, and/or determined by the CA from time to time under section 36A of the Ordinance.

2.22 LAC is the interconnection charge payable by ETS operators to local network operators for conveyance of ETS traffic to and from end users. The former Telecommunications Authority (“TA”) adopted an updated regime for LAC with effect from 1 July 2013. Under the updated LAC regime, local FNOs and MNOs are entitled to receive LAC for the conveyance of ETS traffic, and the level of LAC will be set by commercial negotiations by the interconnecting parties. Details are provided in the Statement entitled “*New Regulatory Regime for Local Access Charge*”<sup>4</sup> and the “*Regulatory Guide of Local Access Charge*”<sup>5</sup> issued in December 2011.

2.23 With a view to combating illegal LAC bypass activities, applicants for SBO Licence for Class 3 (ETS) (including existing holders of SBO Licences for non-ETS who seek to expand their service scope to cover ETS) should note that –

- (a) before the formal issue of the licence, applicants shall submit a properly signed interconnection agreement (or its equivalence) with a hosting network operator for the provision of ETS under applications; and
- (b) where required by the CA in writing, the licensee shall provide to the CA and maintain a duly issued performance bond in Hong Kong dollars with the amount as specified by the CA in favour of the Hong Kong Government to guarantee the licensee’s payment of the financial penalty, if any, imposed on it by the CA pursuant

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<sup>4</sup> The Statement is available at:  
<https://www.coms-auth.hk/filemanager/common/ta20111223.pdf>.

<sup>5</sup> The Regulatory Guide is available at:  
[https://coms-auth.hk/filemanager/statement/en/upload/37/gn\\_201125e.pdf](https://coms-auth.hk/filemanager/statement/en/upload/37/gn_201125e.pdf).

to section 36C of the Ordinance for breach of Special Conditions (“SCs”) 2.1, 7.1 and/or 8.1 of the SBO Licence for Class 3 (ETS). SC 28 and Schedule 5 on this performance bond requirement are included in all SBO Licences (irrespective of the type of services authorised) <sup>6</sup>. At present, the requirement to submit a performance bond is not yet implemented but SBO licensees for Class 3 (ETS) should note that they may be subject to such requirement in future. The CA is closely monitoring the operation of the ETS market including the situation of illegal bypass activities. If it is considered that there is a need to impose the requirement of submission of performance bond, the CA will give the licensees reasonable advance notice. Reference may be made to **Annex 2** for the form of the performance bond to be submitted by SBO licensees providing ETS if required by the CA. The CA may revise the form of the performance bond as appropriate at the time when the licensees are required to provide the performance bond.

- 2.24 An SBO licensee providing ETS shall comply with the Numbering Plan, the Numbering CoP and other relevant regulatory guides issued by the CA. Among others, it shall only use numbers with prefix(es) ‘15’, ‘16’ and/or ‘30(5-9)’ for provision of ETS. The licensees for ETS may also apply for International Signalling Point Codes and Signalling Point Codes for the operation of the licensed services in accordance with the Numbering CoP.
- 2.25 The numbers with prefix(es) ‘15’ and/or ‘16’ will be assigned to each licensee by the CA upon request. Licensees who wish to use these numbers should submit separate applications to the CA for assignment of these numbers to them for providing ETS. On the other hand, the numbers with prefix ‘30(5-9)’ for ETS will not be directly allocated by the CA to SBO licensees. These numbers are allocated by the CA to FNOs for assignment to their customers. SBO licensees who wish to use these numbers should send their applications to their hosting FNOs direct. For details, please refer to the Numbering CoP.

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<sup>6</sup> For the avoidance of doubt, the performance bond requirement, upon its implementation, under SC 28 and Schedule 5 in relation to breach of SCs 2.1, 7.1 and/or 8.1 of the SBO Licence will only be applicable to SBO licensees providing ETS.

***International Value-Added Network Services (IVANS) including Internet Access Services***

- 2.26 An SBO licensee is permitted under the SBO Licence to provide IVANS which includes but not limited to Internet access services, data transmissions such as fax-to-email, email-to-fax, store and retrieve, store and forward services. An SBO licensee providing IVANS is required to pay to local FNOs or MNOs, as the case may be, to whom its IVANS is interconnected with, the necessary interconnection charges.
- 2.27 An SBO licensee providing IVANS shall comply with the Numbering Plan, the Numbering CoP and other relevant regulatory guides issued by the CA. Among others, it shall only use numbers with prefix(es) '300(1-9)' and/or '30(1-4)' for the provision of IVANS. These numbers will not be directly allocated by the CA to SBO licensees, but are rather allocated to FNOs for assignment to their customers. SBO licensees who wish to apply for these numbers should send their applications to their hosting FNOs.
- 2.28 An SBO licensee authorised to provide IVANS is not allowed under its licence to provide any real-time voice telephony (including real-time facsimile) services. An SBO licensee who wishes to provide such services should apply to the CA for expansion of the scope of service of its existing licence to cover local voice telephony services (Class 1 and/or Class 2 services) or ETS, as the case may be.
- 2.29 With the implementation of real-name registration for subscriber identification module ("SIM") cards, where an SBO licensee provides to a customer a SIM card (which is supplied by a telecommunications licensee in Hong Kong) as part of the SBO licensee's provision of the IVANS authorised under its SBO Licence (e.g. Wi-Fi egg service) for accessing a mobile telecommunications service in Hong Kong, and it is the SBO licensee (rather than its customer) that makes real-name registration to enable activation of the SIM card, the licensee is advised to keep record of the name and contact information of the customer concerned. For details about real-name registration for SIM cards, please see paragraph 2.52 below.

## ***Mobile Virtual Network Operator (MVNO) Services***

- 2.30 An MVNO is an operator which provides a public radiocommunications service to customers through interconnection with, and access to, the radiocommunications infrastructure of an MNO licensed under a UCL authorised for provision of mobile services and assigned with the radio spectrum through which the public radiocommunications services are provided.
- 2.31 If an MVNO meets the relevant criteria stipulated in Appendix 4 of the Numbering CoP issued by the CA, the MVNO may be allocated its own numbers and a mobile network code.
- 2.32 An MVNO is required to fulfill, among others, the following obligations –
- (a) to ensure A2A connectivity;
  - (b) to comply with the Numbering Plan and the Numbering CoP;
  - (c) to facilitate MNP and ONP;
  - (d) to provide free access to emergency service to its customers; and
  - (e) to comply with the real-name registration requirements for SIM cards.
- 2.33 The terms and conditions of the interconnection agreement(s) between an MVNO and each of its hosting MNO(s) will be negotiated on a commercial basis. An MVNO will be required to pay the interconnection charges which are applicable to an MNO for interconnection with other networks.
- 2.34 To provide practical guidance to licensees in the event of cessation of MVNO services in order to better protect consumer interest, the CA has issued the mandatory “*Code of Practice on the Cessation Arrangements for Mobile Virtual Network Operator Services*”<sup>7</sup>. Issued under SC 12.1

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<sup>7</sup> The code of practice is available at:  
[https://www.coms-auth.hk/filemanager/statement/en/upload/421/cop-mvno\\_e.pdf](https://www.coms-auth.hk/filemanager/statement/en/upload/421/cop-mvno_e.pdf).

of the SBO Licence, this Code of Practice shall be observed and complied by all MVNOs, as well as their hosting MNOs, in the event of cessation of relevant services. In order to safeguard MVNOs' commitment to comply with this Code of Practice, an MVNO is required, pursuant to SC 28 of the SBO Licence for Class 3 (MVNO), to provide to the CA and maintain a duly issued performance bond in Hong Kong dollars in favour of the Hong Kong Government with the following amount –

- (a) For MVNOs with 100 000 or fewer subscribers, the bonded sum will be HK\$100,000; and
- (b) For MVNOs with more than 100 000 subscribers, the bonded sum will be HK\$200,000.

The bonded sum is to guarantee the licensee's payment of the financial penalty, if any, imposed on it by the CA pursuant to section 36C of the Ordinance for any breach of SC 12.1. Reference may be made to **Annex 2** for the form of the performance bond to be submitted by SBO licensees providing MVNO services.

2.35 To facilitate the CA's monitoring of the satisfactory operation of the MVNO's network installation and equipment, an MVNO providing local mobile voice and/or data services to customers for use within Hong Kong is required to provide two test SIM connections to OFCA at its own cost within one month of its service launch date<sup>8</sup>.

2.36 Instead of providing public radiocommunications service to customers directly, an SBO licensee may be authorised to provide mobile virtual network enabler ("MVNE") service to enable MVNOs to provide public radiocommunications service to their customers. Unless stated otherwise, MVNEs shall not offer in the course of its business or providing its service any mobile stations (including any SIM and any other device or interface, used for connection to the systems) and any subscriber numbers for use by any customers of the service.

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<sup>8</sup> Please refer to the Circular Letter entitled "*Reporting of Network and Service Outage and Provision of Test Subscriber Identification Module Connections for Network Monitoring Purposes*", which is available at: [https://www.coms-auth.hk/filemanager/en/content\\_75/circular\\_20180611.pdf](https://www.coms-auth.hk/filemanager/en/content_75/circular_20180611.pdf).

2.37 A “Code of Practice on Verification of the Addresses of Potential Customers for Mobile Telecommunications Services” was issued by the former TA in January 2000 and last revised by the CA in November 2022<sup>9</sup>. This code provides practical guidance to mobile service providers in respect of the verification of the addresses of potential customers when they subscribe to mobile services. MVNOs are required to comply with the latest version of this code and follow the practices prescribed therein.

### ***Mobile Communications Services on board an Aircraft (MCA) Services***

2.38 An MCA service provider is a service provider who effectively extends the service coverage of terrestrial mobile networks to on board an aircraft registered in Hong Kong, enabling airline passengers to use mobile communications service operating in the 1710 – 1785 MHz and 1805 – 1880 MHz frequency bands as well as the 1920 – 1980 MHz and 2110 – 2170 MHz frequency bands.

2.39 There are some key criteria and requirements to be fulfilled by an MCA service provider, as follows –

- (a) Throughout the validity of the licence, the licensee shall maintain a valid agreement with the airline operator concerned for the provision of MCA services on board each aircraft as specified in the licence on an exclusive basis;
- (b) All installations and operations of the MCA system for the provision of MCA services must be licensed under an Aircraft Station Licence issued by the CA;
- (c) The operation of MCA system shall comply with the technical and operational requirements as prescribed in the Electronic Communications Committee (“ECC”) Decision ECC/DEC/(06)07<sup>10</sup> and in any applicable standard or

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<sup>9</sup> The latest version of the Code is available at:  
<https://www.coms-auth.hk/filemanager/statement/en/upload/608/cop202202.pdf>.

<sup>10</sup> ECC Decision of 1 December 2006 on the harmonised use of airborne GSM and LTE systems in the frequency bands 1710 – 1785 MHz and 1805 – 1880 MHz and airborne UMTS systems in the frequency bands 1920 – 1980 MHz and 2110 – 2170 MHz (ECC/DEC/(06)07), amended on 13 March 2009 and 14 March 2014.

specification that may from time to time be issued by the CA. The apparatus comprised in the MCA system shall be of a type approved by the CA; and

- (d) The MCA system must only be operated at cruising heights at or more than 3 000 metres above ground and operation of the system must be immediately terminated and all radio transmissions ceased if it is below this level.

### **Other Requirements for SBO Licensees**

#### *Blocking Transmission or Delivery of Calls or Messages and Suspension of Service Due to Fraudulent Use*

2.40 To prevent the transmission or delivery of calls or messages or suspend service due to fraudulent use, SBO licensees are obliged to (a) upon the written request by the CA or any relevant law enforcement agency, to the extent technically feasible and practicable, and without affecting any other telecommunications services, carry out any necessary actions or take any necessary steps to block the transmission or delivery of a call or message or suspend the service provided to a customer for furtherance of any fraudulent activity committed or purported to be committed against any party; and (b) take all reasonably necessary steps to identify and block the transmission or delivery of calls or messages bearing an identity which does not comply with any applicable guideline, code of practice or instrument issued by the CA from time to time.

#### *Calling Line Identification (“CLI”)*

2.41 SBO licensees are required to observe the requirements and responsibilities set out in the “*Code of Practice in Relation to Calling Line Identification and Other Calling Line Identification Related Services*”<sup>11</sup> issued by the CA for the sending of CLI in their provision of services. In addition, licensees who provide a Class 3 service (such as IVANS) which involves the sending of short message service (“SMS”) through the Internet should adopt necessary procedures to ensure that the caller sends correct caller identification information.

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<sup>11</sup> The code of practice is available at:  
[https://www.coms-auth.hk/filemanager/statement/en/upload/301/cop-cli\\_e.pdf](https://www.coms-auth.hk/filemanager/statement/en/upload/301/cop-cli_e.pdf).



### *Technical Standards*

2.42 Pursuant to section 32D of the Ordinance, the CA may from time to time prescribe standards and specifications of telecommunications networks, systems, installations, customer equipment and services, etc <sup>12</sup> . Licensees are obliged to observe these specifications, where applicable, for the provision of services. Applicants should refer to these specifications before submitting their applications.

### *Universal Service Contribution (“USC”)*

2.43 Under section 35B of the Ordinance, the CA may require one or more fixed carrier licensees<sup>13</sup> to have a universal service obligation (“USO”) for provision of basic telephone services, including mainly fixed telephone lines and public payphones. At present, PCCW-HKT Telephone Limited and Hong Kong Telecommunications (HKT) Limited (as joint holders of UCL No. 025) are designated as the universal service provider.

2.44 The SBO licensees providing local fixed and/or mobile telecommunications services using local telephone numbers <sup>14</sup> are required to share the universal service contribution to meet the costs of USO on the basis of the quantity of telephone numbers held by them for the provision of fixed and mobile telephone services.

### *Publication of Tariff*

2.45 Pursuant to section 7F of the Ordinance and the respective licence condition of the SBO Licence, licensees are obliged to publish and charge no more than the published tariffs for the services operated under their licences. The tariff of a service shall include not only all relevant service charges but also the terms and conditions on which the service is

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<sup>12</sup> A full list of HKCA Specifications is available at:  
[https://www.ofca.gov.hk/en/industry\\_focus/standards/tel\\_standards/hkca/index.html](https://www.ofca.gov.hk/en/industry_focus/standards/tel_standards/hkca/index.html).

<sup>13</sup> Including unified carrier licensees authorised to provide fixed telecommunications services.

<sup>14</sup> USC contributing parties include unified carrier licensees authorised to provide local fixed or mobile services and SBO licensees authorised to provide Class 1 service, Class 2 service or Class 3 service (MVNO services only).

provided. To provide guidance to licensees on publication of tariffs, OFCA has issued the “*Guidelines on Publication of Tariff*”<sup>15</sup>.

#### *Prohibition of Unfair Trade Practices*

- 2.46 The Trade Descriptions Ordinance (Cap. 362) (“TDO”) prohibits traders of all sectors, including the telecommunications sector, from engaging in false trade descriptions of goods or services and in specified unfair trade practices, namely misleading omissions, aggressive commercial practices, bait advertising, bait and switch, and wrongly accepting payment.
- 2.47 The Customs and Excise Department (“C&ED”) is the principal agency for enforcing the TDO, with concurrent jurisdiction conferred on the CA to enforce the relevant provisions of the TDO in relation to the commercial practices of licensees under the Ordinance and the Broadcasting Ordinance (Cap. 562) that are directly connected with the provision of a telecommunications or broadcasting service under the respective ordinances. C&ED and the CA have jointly issued the relevant enforcement guidelines which state the manner in which C&ED and the CA would exercise their enforcement powers and provide guidance on the operation of the relevant provisions in the TDO<sup>16</sup>.

#### *Prohibition of Anti-Competitive Practices*

- 2.48 The Competition Ordinance (Cap. 619) (“CO”) provides for general prohibitions of three types of anti-competitive conduct (described as the first conduct rule, the second conduct rule and the merger rule, collectively referred to as the “competition rules” in the CO). The first conduct rule prohibits anti-competitive agreements, decisions and concerted practices. The second conduct rule prohibits an undertaking that has a substantial degree of market power from abusing that power. The merger rule prohibits anti-competitive mergers. The first and second conduct rules apply to all sectors, including the telecommunications sector, in Hong Kong. At present, the merger rule

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<sup>15</sup> The guidelines are available at:  
<https://www.coms-auth.hk/filemanager/statement/en/upload/539/gn202008.pdf>.

<sup>16</sup> The Enforcement Guidelines are available at:  
[https://www.coms-auth.hk/filemanager/en/content\\_800/Enforcement\\_Guidelines\\_en.pdf](https://www.coms-auth.hk/filemanager/en/content_800/Enforcement_Guidelines_en.pdf).

applies only to a merger involving one or more undertakings that hold a carrier licence under the Ordinance or, directly or indirectly, control an undertaking that holds such a licence.

- 2.49 Under the CO, the CA is conferred concurrent jurisdiction with the Competition Commission to investigate and bring enforcement proceedings to the Commission Tribunal in relation to the conduct of telecommunications and broadcasting operators. The CA and the Competition Commission have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (“MoU”) to coordinate the performance of their functions over which they have concurrent jurisdiction. According to the MoU, the CA will ordinarily take the role of lead authority on matters which fall within the concurrent jurisdiction. Where a matter involves issues that are partly within the concurrent jurisdiction and issues that are partly outside the concurrent jurisdiction, the CA and the Competition Commission will discuss and agree how best to progress the matter case by case.
- 2.50 The CA and the Competition Commission have jointly issued under the CO six sets of guidelines describing how they expect to interpret and give effect to the three competition rules, and explaining the procedures for handling complaints, conducting investigations and considering applications for exclusions and exemptions<sup>17</sup>.
- 2.51 Apart from the CO, section 7Q of the Ordinance prohibits exploitative conduct of a dominant licensee<sup>18</sup>. The CA has investigative as well as adjudicative power in enforcing section 7Q. Decisions made by the CA under section 7Q will be subject to appeal to the Telecommunications (Competition Provisions) Appeal Board.

#### *Real-name Registration for SIM Cards*

- 2.52 The Telecommunications (Registration of SIM Cards) Regulation (Cap. 106AI) (“SIM Registration Regulation”) <sup>19</sup> imposes a general obligation

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<sup>17</sup> The full sets of Competition Guidelines are available at: [https://www.coms-auth.hk/en/policies\\_regulations/other/competition/co/legislation\\_and\\_guidelines\\_issued\\_under\\_the\\_co/index.html](https://www.coms-auth.hk/en/policies_regulations/other/competition/co/legislation_and_guidelines_issued_under_the_co/index.html).

<sup>18</sup> Further information regarding section 7Q of the Ordinance is available at: [https://www.coms-auth.hk/en/policies\\_regulations/other/competition/telecommunications/index.html](https://www.coms-auth.hk/en/policies_regulations/other/competition/telecommunications/index.html).

<sup>19</sup> The SIM Registration Regulation is available at:

on licensees supplying telecommunications services through SIM cards in Hong Kong to ensure that the SIM cards provided by them are not activated for use in Hong Kong unless the SIM cards are currently registered with them.

- 2.53 The CA issued the “*Guidelines on Implementation of Real-name Registration for SIM Cards*” (“SIM Registration Guidelines”)<sup>20</sup> in August 2021 with a view to providing practical and administrative guidance to licensees on implementation of the requirements imposed on them under the SIM Registration Regulation. SBO licensees who supply telecommunications services in Hong Kong through SIM cards shall comply with the SIM Registration Regulation and the SIM Registration Guidelines. An applicant who intends to supply telecommunications services in Hong Kong through SIM cards shall demonstrate to the satisfaction of OFCA that it has put in place a registration system which is in compliance with the SIM Registration Regulation and the SIM Registration Guidelines before the licence application will be approved.

#### *Reporting Requirements*

- 2.54 Under SC 3 of SBO Licence, licensees are required to submit, among others, statistics and reports in respect of services authorised under their licences, at the time and in the manner specified by the CA. The detailed reporting requirements will be notified to the SBO licensee upon the issue of licence. A “Nil” return is required even if any of the services have not yet been launched or are no longer provided.

#### Consumer Protection

##### *Fair Usage Policy (“FUP”)*

- 2.55 To provide guidance to broadband service providers on how they may implement FUP and to enhance the transparency of service information to facilitate better informed consumer choices, the former TA has issued the mandatory “*Guidelines for the Implementation of Fair Usage Policy*”

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<https://www.elegislation.gov.hk/hk/cap106A1>.

<sup>20</sup> The SIM Registration Guidelines are available at:  
<https://www.coms-auth.hk/filemanager/statement/en/upload/569/gn152021.pdf>.

*for the Provision of Mobile and Fixed Broadband Services*<sup>21</sup>. SBO licensees providing fixed and/or mobile broadband services are required to comply with the guiding principles set out in these guidelines for the implementation of FUP.

#### *Billing Information and Payment Collection for Telecommunications Services*

2.56 To provide guidance to licensees on the chargeable items to be included in their bills for telecommunications services as well as arrangements for payment collection, the former TA has issued the voluntary “*Code of Practice in relation to Billing Information and Payment Collection for Telecommunications Services*”<sup>22</sup>. SBO licensees are encouraged to pledge compliance with this code.

#### *Industry Code of Practice for Telecommunications Service Contracts*

2.57 To provide guidance to the telecommunications industry in drawing up service contracts with customers, the Communications Association of Hong Kong (“CAHK”) has promulgated a voluntary industry “*Code of Practice for Telecommunications Service Contracts*”<sup>23</sup> as an industry self-regulatory initiative. All major telecommunications service providers in Hong Kong have pledged compliance with this industry code. SBO licensees are encouraged to comply with this code and follow the practices prescribed therein.

#### *Customer Complaint Settlement Scheme (“CCSS”)*

2.58 The CCSS is a mediation scheme set up by the telecommunications industry to help resolve billing disputes in deadlock between telecommunications service providers and their customers. The mediation service is provided by an agency set up under the CAHK. OFCA supports the operation of the CCSS by contributing the necessary funding, screening the CCSS applications against prescribed criteria, and

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<sup>21</sup> The guidelines are available at:  
[https://coms-auth.hk/filemanager/statement/en/upload/38/gn\\_201124e.pdf](https://coms-auth.hk/filemanager/statement/en/upload/38/gn_201124e.pdf).

<sup>22</sup> The code of practice is available at:  
<https://www.coms-auth.hk/filemanager/statement/en/upload/33/cop20111011e.pdf>.

<sup>23</sup> The code of practice is available at:  
[https://www.cahk.hk/cop/en\\_contracts](https://www.cahk.hk/cop/en_contracts).

monitoring the performance and governance of the scheme. SBO licensees are encouraged to join the CCSS.

### **Section III – Licensing Arrangement**

- 3.1 A holder of SBO Licence shall be a company registered under the Companies Ordinance (Cap. 622) in Hong Kong. There is no foreign ownership restriction. In line with the full liberalisation policy in telecommunications services, the CA has not pre-set a limit on the number of SBO Licence to be issued, or any restriction on the types of services which may be authorised under the SBO Licence, subject to physical or other constraints on the provision of the proposed services.

#### **Period of Validity**

- 3.2 A new SBO Licence shall be valid for two years and shall expire on the first day of the month next following the month in which it was issued and in the second year following the year in which it was issued.
- 3.3 The SBO Licence may be renewed for a period of two years at a time, subject to the licensee meeting the licence renewal requirements as specified and amended by the CA from time to time. Specifically, an SBO licensee prior to renewal of its two-year licence will be required to –
- (a) declare that its status of operation is active and provide evidence thereto (e.g. copy of interconnection/capacity-leasing agreement(s) with its hosting network operator(s), sales agreements with its customer(s) in effect, and/or number of active subscription(s));
  - (b) ensure that its key corporate information, such as registered company name and address, and regulatory contact, is up-to-date; and
  - (c) ensure that the basic obligations under the SBO Licence, such as submission of statistics return as applicable and payment of licence fee for the new licence term, are discharged before expiry of the existing licence term.

For further details on the licence renewal requirements, please refer to

the relevant documents on the CA's website<sup>24</sup>.

## Licence Fee

3.4 The licence fee for an SBO Licence is determined and published by the CA from time to time<sup>25</sup>. The licence fee consists of the following components –

- (a) Fixed Fee
- (i) \$25,000 per annum where provision of Class 1 and/or Class 2 service(s) is/are authorised under the SBO Licence;
  - (ii) Subject to (iv) and (v) below, \$1,500 per biennium for each of the following types of Class 3 services authorised under the SBO Licence –
    - ETS
    - IVANS (with or without Internet access services)
    - PPS
    - ALARM services
    - TELECON services
  - (iii) Subject to (iv), \$750 per annum for each of the following types of Class 3 services authorised under the SBO Licence –
    - MCA services
    - MVNO services
    - RELAY services
  - (iv) \$25,000 per annum where a combination of one or both of Class 1 and Class 2 services and any one or more of Class 3 services are authorised under the SBO Licence; or

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<sup>24</sup> Please refer to the circular letter on “*Enhancement of the Licensing Regime for Services-Based Operators*”, which is available at:  
[https://www.coms-auth.hk/filemanager/common/licensing/circular\\_20200428\\_1.pdf](https://www.coms-auth.hk/filemanager/common/licensing/circular_20200428_1.pdf).

<sup>25</sup> Please refer to the document “*Period of Validity and Licence Fees determined by the Communications Authority*” published by the CA, which is available at:  
<https://www.coms-auth.hk/en/licensing/telecommunications/index.html>.



- (v) \$750 per annum for each type of Class 3 services, where a combination of any one or more of the “Class 3 services” mentioned in (ii) above and any one or more of the “Class 3 services” mentioned in (iii) above are authorised under the SBO Licence.

The fixed licence fee shall be payable on or before –

- the issue of the SBO Licence (hereafter referred to as the “Licence Issue Date”);
- the first day of the month next following the month in which the SBO Licence was issued and in the year next following the year in which the SBO Licence was issued (hereafter refer to as the “First Due Date”) (not applicable to payment of the biennium fixed fee of \$1,500 for services listed under (ii) above);
- the renewal of the SBO Licence (hereafter referred to as the “Licence Renewal Date”); or
- anniversary of the renewal of the SBO Licence while the SBO Licence remains in force (hereafter refer to as the “Anniversary Date”) (except for the fixed fee of \$1,500 per biennium under (ii) above), as applicable.

Where there is any expansion in scope of service authorised under the SBO Licence during the validity period of the licence, a pro-rata fee of (i), (ii), (iii), (iv) or (v) as determined by the CA in respect of the additional service authorised for the remaining validity period of the SBO Licence shall be payable at the time when the expansion in scope of service is granted to the SBO Licence.

(b) Annual Variable Fees

The annual variable licence fees payable on or before –

- the Licence Issue Date;
- the First Due Date;
- the Licence Renewal Date; or
- the Anniversary Date

shall be the sum of the following, as applicable –

- Subscriber Number Fee

A fee of \$3 for each subscriber number (“number fee”) allocated or assigned to the licensee. A subscriber number is a number in the Numbering Plan within the numbering blocks allocated by the CA to a licensee, which number may be assigned by the licensee to its customer for use of a telecommunications service. The number fee shall be payable as follows –

- (i) the number fee shall be payable (a) for each subscriber number allocated to the licensee that is not ported out from the licensee’s system or re-allocated or assigned, as authorised by the CA, to another licensee (who has made payment of the licence fee for such number under its licence); and (b) for each subscriber number allocated to another licensee that is ported in to the licensee’s system or re-allocated or assigned, as authorised by the CA, by another licensee to the licensee; and
- (ii) in addition to (i) above, where a subscriber number allocated to another licensee is re-allocated or assigned, as authorised by the CA, to the licensee during the validity period of the licence, a pro-rata number fee shall be applicable and payable at the time of the re-allocation or assignment,

provided that the number fee does not apply to numbers used (if any) for the provision of (a) ETS; (b) IVANS; (c) RELAY services; (d) TELECON services; (e) PPS; (f) ALARM services; (g) MCA services; and (h) any other services designated by the CA as not subject to number fee.

- When apparatus for radiocommunications is possessed, used, established or maintained for the purposes of the services provided, the following additional fees shall be payable –

- (i) a fee of \$500 for each 100 mobile stations or less used by customers of the service;
- (ii) a fee for every base or fixed station (hereafter referred to as “base station”<sup>26</sup>) as follows –
  - For the 1st to the 50th base station installed for the service: \$1,000 per base station
  - For the 51st to the 100th base station installed for the service: \$500 per base station
  - For the 101st base station installed for the service and any additional base stations: \$100 per base station; and/or
- (iii) a fee of \$200 for each 100 Wireless Internet of Things (“WIoT”) device<sup>27</sup> or less used by customers of the service.

3.5 For the purpose of calculating the provisional licence fee, SBO licensees providing Class 1 services, Class 2 services assigned with numbers from the Numbering Plan and/or Class 3 (MVNO, RELAY and/or MCA) services are required to report to OFCA one month before (i) First Due Date; (ii) Licence Renewal Date; or (iii) Anniversary Date (“Self-Declaration”) the following –

- (a) the quantity of subscriber numbers projected to be held by the SBO licensees as at the forthcoming First Due Date, Licence Renewal Date or Anniversary Date for providing Class 1 services, Class 2 services assigned with numbers from the Numbering Plan and/or Class 3 (MVNO) services; and
- (b) the quantity of mobile stations, base stations, and/or WIoT devices in respect of the Class 3 (MVNO, RELAY and/or MCA)

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<sup>26</sup> The interpretation on “base station” is available at:  
[https://www.coms-auth.hk/filemanager/common/licensing/circular\\_20200428\\_2.pdf](https://www.coms-auth.hk/filemanager/common/licensing/circular_20200428_2.pdf).

<sup>27</sup> The interpretation of WIoT device is available at:  
[https://www.coms-auth.hk/filemanager/common/licensing/circular\\_20200428\\_1.pdf](https://www.coms-auth.hk/filemanager/common/licensing/circular_20200428_1.pdf).

services, as the case may be, projected to be held by the SBO licensees as at the forthcoming First Due Date, Licence Renewal Date or Anniversary Date.

3.6 For the purpose of calculating the actual licence fee, SBO licensees are required to provide relevant annual audit assurance report as explained below –

- (a) For the SBO licensee which provided Class 1 services and/or Class 3 (MVNO, RELAY and/or MCA) services since its (i) Licence Issue Date for newly issued licence; (ii) First Due Date; (iii) last Licence Renewal Date; or (iv) last Anniversary Date, it would be required to provide an annual audit assurance report to certify the figures reported to OFCA in paragraph 3.5 as at the First Due Date, Licence Renewal Date or Anniversary Date for determining the exact amount of licence fee. Such annual audit assurance report should be submitted to OFCA within one month from the First Due Date, Licence Renewal Date or Anniversary Date. If there is any discrepancy between the figures in the Self-Declaration and those in the annual audit assurance report, an adjustment on the licence fee will be made; and
- (b) For the SBO licensee which has been authorised and has previously indicated its intention to OFCA to provide Class 1 services and/or Class 3 (MVNO, RELAY and/or MCA) services (e.g. by applying for a network ID for the use of an AD platform for number portability or applying for the establishment of a base station), but did not provide such service(s) since its (i) Licence Issue Date; (ii) First Due Date; (iii) last Licence Renewal Date; or (iv) last Anniversary Date, it would be required to submit an annual audit assurance report to prove that no Class 1 services and/or Class 3 (MVNO, RELAY and/or MCA) services (as the case may be) are provided or have been provided during the licence period in question. Such annual audit assurance report should be provided one month from the First Due Date, Licence Renewal Date or Anniversary Date. If there is any discrepancy between the findings in the Self-Declaration and those in the annual audit assurance report, an adjustment on the licence fee will be made.

## **Performance Bond**

3.7 All SBO licensees authorised to provide MVNO services are required to, pursuant to SC 28 of the SBO Licence, provide to the CA and maintain a duly issued performance bond in Hong Kong dollars in favour of the Hong Kong Government –

(a) For new applicants, before the formal issue of their licences, they shall provide to the CA and maintain a duly issued performance bond in the bonded sum of HK\$100,000 as referred to in paragraph 2.34(a); and

(b) For existing licensees seeking renewals of their SBO Licences, they shall provide to the CA and maintain a duly issued performance bond in the bonded sum of either HK\$100,000 or HK\$ 200,000 based on the number of subscribers as referred to in paragraph 2.34 one month prior to the renewal date of their SBO Licences. The number of subscribers to be adopted for deciding the amount of the bonded sum shall be based on the number of mobile stations used by customers of the service in the Self-Declaration as referred to in paragraphs 3.5 and 3.6. If the number of mobile stations in the annual audit assurance report is over 100 000, the CA may request the licensees to submit a new or amended performance bond with a bonded sum of HK\$200,000, notwithstanding that the licensee may have already provided a bonded sum of HK\$100,000 based on the smaller number of mobile stations in the Self-Declaration.

3.8 A sample form of the performance bond is set out at **Annex 2**.

## **Section IV – Information to be Provided in Submitting an Application**

- 4.1 An SBO Licence may be granted under the following scenarios –
- (a) Application for a new SBO Licence; or
  - (b) Consolidation of multiple SBO Licences into one SBO Licence.
- 4.2 Information required to be provided by an applicant for application of a new application are set out in paragraphs 4.3 to 4.11 below. Information required to be provided for consolidation of multiple SBO Licences into one SBO Licence will be decided on a case-by-case basis.

### **Information to be Submitted in the Application**

- 4.3 Company Structure
- (a) An SBO Licensee must be a company registered in Hong Kong under the Companies Ordinance (Cap. 622). The application should contain details of the company intended to be the licensee under application, including –
    - (i) photocopies of the Certificate of Incorporation and the Business Registration Certificate of the company;
    - (ii) detailed information on corporate and shareholding structure including relationships with holding or related companies;
    - (iii) certified copies of Articles of Association of the company; and
    - (iv) details on the composition of the company's Board of Directors and key officers.
- 4.4 Financial Capability (applicable only for applicants proposing to provide
- (a) local voice telephony services of Class 1 and Class 2 services; and/or
  - (b) MVNO services)

- (a) If the applicant is an established company, the application should include copies of audited annual financial statements, including the auditor reports for the last three full financial years, together with the most recent interim results (if applicable).
- (b) If the applicant is a newly-formed company, the application should include –
  - (i) the directors' certificate of the amount of issued and paid-up share capital;
  - (ii) bankers' confirmation of the amount of its deposits and/or available credit facilities; and
  - (iii) copies of audited annual financial statements of the company's shareholding companies, including the auditor reports for the last three full financial years, together with the most recent interim results (if applicable).
- (c) The applicant should provide a projected profit and loss account for the proposed service for the first three years of operation, with a breakdown of the planned capital expenditure, operating costs, level of charges, estimated number of subscribers and estimated annual revenue.
- (d) The applicant should provide sufficient documentary evidence to prove that it has the financial capability to meet the capital investment required in the financial plan. Examples of documentary evidence may include bankers' confirmation of the amount of deposits and/or available credit facilities, copies of the audited accounts of the applicant showing that there are sufficient internal funds available, etc.

#### 4.5 Description of the System

The applicant should provide a detailed description of the system to be installed, including –

- (a) system configuration, architecture and operation and if appropriate, diagram(s) illustrating how the system is

interconnected with other public telecommunications networks/services; and

- (b) the planned location of system to be installed.

The application should illustrate how the applicant would operate, maintain and provide a good, efficient and continuous service.

#### 4.6 Description of the Proposed Services

- (a) The applicant should provide a detailed description of all services to be provided, including any special operational features available.
- (b) The applicant should provide the expected service launch date and implementation schedule if the proposed services are to be introduced in phases.
- (c) Successful applicants should be committed to the provision of the proposed services in Hong Kong as detailed in their applications, submissions and representations.

#### 4.7 Technical Support

- (a) The application should include the details of the technical support facilities in Hong Kong, including a description of the technical personnel responsible for the day-to-day operation and maintenance of the facilities and the routine maintenance schedule/procedure.

#### 4.8 Real-name Registration for SIM Cards

- (a) The applicant who intends to supply telecommunications services in Hong Kong through SIM cards should provide an implementation plan for real-name registration of SIM cards and demonstrate that it has put in place a registration system which is in compliance with the SIM Registration Regulation and SIM Registration Guidelines (see paragraphs 2.52 and 2.53).



#### 4.9 Previous Relevant Experience

- (a) Details on the previous experience of the applicant, its shareholders and key personnel in establishing and running the proposed telecommunications services, as well as information on the current status of these services, should be given.
- (b) Information should also be provided on the applicant and its shareholders' experience in running other relevant businesses in Hong Kong or overseas.

#### 4.10 Supplementary documents to be submitted for application for individual services

- (a) Class 3 (ETS)

Applicants for provision of ETS should note that they will need to submit a properly signed interconnection agreement (or its equivalence) with a hosting network operator for the provision of the ETS under application before the licence is formally issued. Applicants are NOT required to submit the interconnection agreements when they submit their applications for the SBO Licence. After the CA has completed the assessment of their applications and formed the view that the SBO Licence may be granted, it shall inform the applicants of its approval in principle subject to a set of conditions, including the provision of the concerned interconnection agreements. Applicants should submit the interconnection agreements after they are notified by the CA.

- (b) Class 3 (MVNO Services)

The applicant should submit supporting documents to demonstrate its intention to provide MVNO service. The supporting documents shall include an interconnection agreement or a MoU signed with a licensed MNO for provision of MVNO service, a purchasing agreement or a MoU signed with an equipment provider for acquiring the ownership or usage right of relevant network equipment and infrastructure, etc., as the case may be. After approval in principle by the CA on grant of the

relevant SBO Licence, the applicant should submit to the CA a duly issued performance bond as set out in paragraph 3.7(a), before the SBO Licence will be formally issued. If the applicant intends to provide MVNE services, it may apply to the CA in writing for waiving the submission(s) of certain supporting documents and/or the performance bond.

(c) Class 3 (MCA Services)

The applicant should submit the following documents and information –

- (i) A valid agreement mentioned in paragraph 2.39(a) above, or a written confirmation from both the applicant and the airline operator concerned that a valid agreement mentioned in paragraph 2.39(a) above has been established;
- (ii) The geographic locations where the services will be provided;
- (iii) Aircraft information, including the airline operator, identification of the aircraft, and type of the aircraft, on which the services will be provided; and
- (iv) The height above which the MCA system will operate and the frequencies to be operated by Base Transceiver Station and Network Control Unit.

4.11 Other Information

- (a) The applicant may submit any other information not specified above which it considers helpful to the application.
- (b) The CA may request the applicant to submit any other information it considers necessary for its consideration of the application.

## **Section V – Broad Licensing Criteria**

- 5.1 Assessment of applications will be based on the information supplied by applicants according to the requirements set out in Section IV of these Guidelines. The CA reserves all rights not to accept applications which are substantially incomplete in this respect.
- 5.2 The proposed service in the application must be technically sound and compatible with the local environment. The CA will consider the expertise required in the operation and maintenance of the system(s) as well as the knowledge and previous experience of the applicant in operating similar services.
- 5.3 The applicant must have the financial capability and demonstrate willingness to invest sufficient capital to provide a satisfactory service.
- 5.4 The proposed telecommunications systems, installation, customer equipment and services, etc. will be expected to comply with the standards and specifications as may be specified and amended by the CA from time to time.
- 5.5 For interconnection with other local or external public telecommunications networks and/or services, the applicant shall have proper interconnection arrangement established with other licensed telecommunications operators and the equipment of the proposed service shall meet the technical specifications for interconnection with such networks and/or services as may be specified by the CA.
- 5.6 The applicant who intends to supply telecommunications services in Hong Kong through SIM cards shall demonstrate to the satisfaction of OFCA that it has put in place a registration system which is in compliance with the SIM Registration Regulation and SIM Registration Guidelines before the licence application will be approved.
- 5.7 The licensing criteria set out in these Guidelines are not intended to be a definitive list of criteria. While evaluating whether the criteria have been satisfied, the CA is entitled to determine the weight it will give to the individual matter to which it considers appropriate in the

circumstances, after taking the relevant factors into account, and will decide each case on its own merits.

**Office of the Communications Authority**  
**16 December 2022**

**Typical description of services under SBO Licence<sup>28</sup>**

<b>Type of Services</b>	<b>Description of services in Schedule 1 of the SBO Licence</b>
Class 1 services Class 2 services	<p>Part I</p> <p>1. Subject to General Condition 3, Clause 3 [and Clause 4] of this Schedule 1, all internal and external telecommunications services as listed in Part II, other than telecommunications services the subject of an exclusive licence issued under the Ordinance, [a Unified Carrier Licence authorizing provision of mobile services, a Public Radiocommunications Service Licence, a Public Radiocommunications Service Licence (For Services Other Than Land Mobile Services),]<sup>29</sup> a service subject to licensing under any other Ordinance, or a satellite broadcasting service under a Satellite Television Uplink and Downlink Licence.</p> <p>2. For the purpose of this licence, an “internal” telecommunications service means a service for communications between points within Hong Kong; and an “external” telecommunications service means a service for communications</p> <p>(a) between one or more points in Hong Kong and one or more points outside Hong Kong; and</p> <p>(b) between two or more points outside Hong Kong but routed in transit via Hong Kong.</p>

<sup>28</sup> The descriptions of services in the table are extracted from Schedule 1 of respective sample licences, which are available at <https://www.coms-auth.hk/en/licensing/telecommunications/sbo/index.html>. They are for reference only. Depending on the services proposed by the applicant, the CA will adopt the appropriate scope for the services concerned.

<sup>29</sup> The restriction on provision of local voice telephony services to mobile customers (viz. the text in square bracket) will be removed if the licensee is authorised to provide such under its SBO Licence.

Type of Services	Description of services in Schedule 1 of the SBO Licence
	<p>3. Nothing in this licence authorises the licensee to establish or maintain (a) any means of telecommunications, including but not limited to physical facilities or telecommunications installations, which cross public streets or unleased Government lands; and (b) telecommunications or radiocommunications network as a carrier licensee as defined in the Ordinance.</p> <p>[4.The scope of service specified in Clause 1 of this Schedule 1 does not include internal voice telephony services provided to mobile customers.]<sup>30</sup></p> <p>Part II</p> <p>1. Class 1 services</p> <p>Services with the same meaning as defined in Special Condition 16.2</p> <p>2. Class 2 services</p> <p>2.1 Services with the same meaning as defined in Special Condition 17.2</p> <p>[2.2 Notwithstanding paragraph 2.1 above, the licensee shall not in the course of its business or providing its service assign its customers with numbers from the Numbering Plan of Hong Kong.]<sup>31</sup></p>
Class 3 (ETS)	1. The service is an external public telecommunications service operated over external leased circuits supplied

<sup>30</sup> The bracketed text above will be deleted if provision of service to mobile customers is authorised for the licensee.

<sup>31</sup> Paragraph 2.2 will be inserted if the licensee is not authorised to assign its customers with numbers from the Numbering Plan.

<b>Type of Services</b>	<b>Description of services in Schedule 1 of the SBO Licence</b>
	<p>by a Unified Carrier Licensee authorised to provide fixed services and to supply such circuits at the Hong Kong end or over other external switched telecommunications services lawfully operated in Hong Kong at the Hong Kong end.</p> <p>2. In the above description of service, “external” means communications with places outside Hong Kong.</p> <p>3. For the avoidance of doubt, the service shall not include the provision to customers of a telecommunications circuit between a point in Hong Kong (including, without limitation, a radiocommunications facility or cable termination facility) and one or more points outside Hong Kong, and any means of telecommunications capable of facilitating such a circuit.</p> <p>4. Customers at the Hong Kong end and/or at the distant end may be connected to the service through any public switched telecommunications network or dedicated circuits.</p> <p>5. This licence does not authorise the licensee to establish and maintain any physical facilities for the supply of external circuits to customers.</p>
Class 3 (IVANS)	<p>1. The service is a local and/or external public telecommunications service accessed by its customers via, and provided over, circuits provided by public telecommunications networks and/or public telecommunications services licensed under the Ordinance and, subject to Clauses 3 to 6 of this Schedule, may include the following service elements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) data communications;</li> <li>(b) non-real time facsimile communications;</li> <li>(c) electronic mailbox/messaging;</li> </ul>

Type of Services	Description of services in Schedule 1 of the SBO Licence
	<p>(d) electronic data interchange;  (e) code, protocol and/or format conversions;  (f) database access and retrieval;  (g) value added voice services;  (h) call management services; and  (i) public teletext services.</p> <p>2. In this Schedule,</p> <p>“circuits provided by public telecommunications networks” means the dedicated circuits or switched circuits or a means of transmission by telecommunications line or radiocommunications link operated or authorised under the Ordinance.</p> <p>“external” means communications with places outside Hong Kong.</p> <p>“external circuit” means a telecommunications circuit between a point in Hong Kong (including, without limitation, a radiocommunications facility or cable termination facility) and one or more points outside Hong Kong, and any means of telecommunications capable of facilitating such circuit.</p> <p>3. “Non-real time facsimile communications” in Clause 1(b) of this Schedule refer to the following types of facsimile communications:</p> <p>(a) store and retrieve; or</p> <p>(b) store and forward (in the case of automatic delivery to the destination terminal(s), there must be at least one other function such as deferred delivery or multi-addressing).</p> <p>4. “Value added voice services” in Clause 1(g) of this</p>



<b>Type of Services</b>	<b>Description of services in Schedule 1 of the SBO Licence</b>
	<p>Schedule do not include basic voice service for carrying real-time voice communications which may be integrated with other types of communications.</p> <p>5. “Call management services” in Clause 1(h) of this Schedule refer to call forwarding and/or routing services which allow the redirection of an incoming voice or facsimile call to computerised call processing equipment operated by the licensee or to telephone numbers or for access to a licensed telecommunications service.</p> <p>6. “Public teletext services” in Clause 1(i) of this Schedule refer to services which involve the transmission and reception of data and information in compliance with the relevant technical standard for public teletext services issued by the Authority.</p> <p>7. For the avoidance of doubt, this licence does not authorise the licensee to establish and maintain any physical facilities for the supply of external circuits to customers.</p>
Class 3 (MVNO) services	<p>1. The service is a mobile virtual network operator service provided to subscribers or customers within the territory of Hong Kong by making use of and by having access to, and interconnection with, radiocommunications infrastructure of a Unified Carrier Licensee authorised to provide mobile services and assigned with the radio spectrum using which the public radiocommunications service is provided.</p> <p>2. Subject to Clause 1, the licensee shall provide the service through and by setting up, maintaining and operating the apparatus, equipment, facility, infrastructure and interconnection including but not</p>

<b>Type of Services</b>	<b>Description of services in Schedule 1 of the SBO Licence</b>
	<p>limited to billing, switching, home location register and Intelligent Network systems but without radio transmission parts and radio base stations. For the avoidance of doubt, the licensee has not been assigned, and is not entitled to the assignment of, any radio spectrum and therefore does not operate any radio base station for the purpose of operating the service.</p> <p>3. Subject to Clause 1, the service may provide for the delivery of telephonic and non-telephonic messages.</p> <p>4. Subject to Clause 1, the service may include (but without limitation to) voice, facsimile, voice mail, electronic mail and short message services and the provision of electronic mailbox or storage facilities to be operated in conjunction with services described in this First Schedule and which enable any member of the public (whether a subscriber of the service or not) to deposit voice, facsimile, voice mail, electronic mail, short message or other files into the electronic mailbox or storage facilities allocated to subscribers of the service or to display the same on handset or other devices of the subscriber of the service.</p> <p>5. The service includes dealing in and demonstration with a view to selling in the course of trade or business of the service and the applicant, such apparatus, facility, equipment, handset, device, accessory, material, case and packaging item for radiocommunications as may be necessary for subscribers of the service to make use of, participate in or receive the service.</p> <p>[5. Notwithstanding Clauses 1 and 2, the licensee shall unless otherwise approved by the Authority in writing set up, maintain and operate the apparatus, equipment,</p>

Type of Services	Description of services in Schedule 1 of the SBO Licence		
	<p>facility and infrastructure to provide service to mobile virtual network operators only to enable the provision of a mobile virtual network operator service offered for use to the general public by the latter. For the avoidance of doubt, the licensee shall not offer in the course of its business or providing its service any mobile stations (including any subscriber identification module and any other device or interface, used for connection to the systems) and any subscriber numbers for use by any customers of the service.]<sup>28</sup></p>		
Class 3 (RELAY) services	<p>1. The service is a radio relay service which provides a telecommunications system for interconnection with the mobile services licensed under the Ordinance, and other radiocommunications services as may be authorised or directed by the Authority, for extension of the radio coverage of these services within the following areas:</p> <table border="0" data-bbox="576 1227 1114 1272"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">Name of Building</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Address</td> </tr> </table> <p>2. The service does not authorise the licensee to make any alteration of the relayed signals of mobile services licensed under the Ordinance or provide any mobile service directly to the end users.</p>	Name of Building	Address
Name of Building	Address		
Class 3 (TELECON) services	<p>1. The service is a local and/or external teleconferencing service whereby customers of the service can hold audio or video conference through the facilities provided by the licensee.</p> <p>2. Connections between the facilities of the licensee in Hong Kong and the users in Hong Kong shall be made through dedicated circuits, switched circuits or a</p>		

<sup>28</sup> The bracketed text will be adopted as paragraph 5 of the Schedule 1 for Class 3 (MVNO) services if provision of MVNE service instead of MVNO service is authorised for the licensees.

<b>Type of Services</b>	<b>Description of services in Schedule 1 of the SBO Licence</b>
	<p>means of transmission by telecommunications line or radiocommunications link operated or authorised under the Ordinance.</p> <p>3. The licensee operates a teleconference operator centre (or call centre) and provides bridging facilities so that conference participants at different locations can see, talk and listen to one another in conference mode through the telecommunications network/circuit connections made by the licensee's system.</p> <p>4. Nothing under this licence authorises the licensee to operate an external public telephone or non-telephone service. External calls to and from the facilities of the service in Hong Kong shall be routed through an external public telephone or non-telephonic service licensed in Hong Kong.</p>
Class 3 (PPS)	<p>1. In this licence,</p> <p>(a) "payphone" means a fixed telephone that is connected to the public switched telephone network operated by a Unified Carrier Licensee authorised to provide fixed services and that cannot be used to make a telephone call (other than an emergency call, a free call for access to other services provided by Unified Carrier Licensees authorised for provision of fixed services as may be specified by the Authority pursuant to Special Condition 27 or a call made through an operator-assisted or automated caller identity verification system) unless the user, immediately prior to using the telephone, makes, or arranges to make, a payment for that particular individual call;</p> <p>(b) "private payphone" means a payphone that is located on or over privately owned land or leased</p>

<b>Type of Services</b>	<b>Description of services in Schedule 1 of the SBO Licence</b>
	<p>land as defined in section 2, Part I of the Land (Miscellaneous Provisions) Ordinance (Cap. 28) and to which members of the general public have access; and</p> <p>(c) “external calls” means calls for communications with places outside Hong Kong.</p> <p>2. The service is a private payphone service provided through the use of payphone equipment established and maintained by the licensee.</p> <p>3. The service may carry telephonic and non-telephonic messages.</p> <p>4. Subject to Special Condition 27, the service may include services which enable the customers to make local and external calls.</p> <p>5. The payphone equipment established and maintained by the licensee shall be connected to access lines provided by a Unified Carrier Licensee authorised to provide fixed services. Nothing in the licence authorises the licensee to establish or maintain any network facilities.</p> <p>6. Nothing in this licence authorises direct interconnection between the payphone equipment established and maintained by the licensee with the gateways for external public telephone services licensed under the Ordinance.</p>
Class 3 (ALARM) services	The service is a local public telecommunications service for the transmission of security and fire alarm signals from customers’ premises to a security fire service communication centre. The conveyance of the security and fire alarm signals may be made through the

<b>Type of Services</b>	<b>Description of services in Schedule 1 of the SBO Licence</b>
	dedicated circuits or switched circuits provided by a Unified Carrier Licensee, or the other telecommunications network and services licensed, or deemed to be licensed, or exempt from licensing, under the Ordinance.
Class 3 (MCA) services	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The service is a mobile communications service on board an aircraft (“MCA service”) which utilizes the MCA system described in paragraph 3 of this Schedule 1, and effectively extends the service coverage of the terrestrial mobile networks to on board an aircraft, to enable airline passengers to use mobile communication services operating in the frequency bands specified in paragraph 4 of this Schedule 1 without establishing direct connections with the terrestrial mobile networks. The service is designated as a Class 3 service pursuant to Special Condition 15.1(h) of this licence.</li> <li>2. The service can only be provided on board the aircrafts listed in Schedule 7.</li> <li>3. The MCA system referred to in paragraph 1 of this Schedule 1 shall comprise all such telecommunications installations established, maintained or possessed under an Aircraft Station Licence, including a Base Transceiver Station and a Network Control Unit, for the purpose of providing the MCA service as specified in paragraph 1 of this Schedule 1.</li> <li>4. All such radiocommunications installations comprised in the MCA system referred to in paragraph 3 of this Schedule 1 shall operate on board an aircraft at the frequency bands listed below –  Base Transceiver Station:</li> </ol>

Type of Services	Description of services in Schedule 1 of the SBO Licence	
	Transmitting frequencies	Receiving frequencies
	1805 – 1880 MHz	1710 – 1785 MHz
	2110 – 2170 MHz	1920 – 1980 MHz
	<p>Network Control Unit*:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transmitting frequencies:</li> </ul> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">460 – 470 MHz  791 – 821 MHz  921 – 960 MHz  1805 – 1880 MHz  2110 – 2170 MHz  2570 – 2620 MHz  2620 – 2690 MHz</p> <p>* These transmitting frequencies assigned to the Network Control Unit shall solely be used for facilitating the provision of MCA service by the Base Transceiver Station and ensuring that the Base Transceiver Station will not cause interference to the services provided by the terrestrial mobile networks. The licensee shall not make use of these frequencies (except 1805 – 1880 MHz and 2110 – 2170 MHz) for the provision of any public telecommunications services.</p>	

**FORM OF PERFORMANCE BOND**

**(For the Provision of External Telecommunications Services  
("ETS")/Mobile Virtual Network Operator ("MVNO") Services)\***

**THIS PERFORMANCE BOND** is made on [DATE]

**BY:**

- (1) [BANK], a banking corporation incorporated in [ ] [with limited liability] whose [registered office/principal place of business in Hong Kong] is at [ ] (the "Bank").

**IN FAVOUR OF:**

- (2) **THE GOVERNMENT OF THE HONG KONG SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION** as represented by the Office of the Communications Authority whose address is at 29th Floor, Wu Chung House, 213 Queen's Road East, Wanchai, Hong Kong (the "Government").

**WHEREAS:**

Pursuant to a request made by the Communications Authority (the "Authority") in writing under Special Condition 28 of the Licence issued to the Licensee on the date of issue, the Licensee is required to provide to the Authority a performance bond issued by a Qualifying Bank, in order to guarantee the Licensee's payment of the financial penalty, if any, imposed on it by the Authority pursuant to section 36C of the Ordinance for breach of [Special Conditions 2.1, 7.1 and/or 8.1] (*note: for the provision of ETS*) / [Special Condition 12.1] (*note: for the provision of MVNO Services*)\* of the Licence. The Bank is a Qualifying Bank.

**1. INTERPRETATION**

**1.1 Definitions**

In this Performance Bond:

"Authority" means the Communications Authority;

\* To delete where appropriate



“Bonded Sum” means an amount of HK\$ [ ]

“Bonded Sum Payable” means the amount of financial penalty imposed by the Authority due to the breach of [Special Conditions 2.1, 7.1 and/or 8.1] *(note: for the provision of ETS)* / [Special Condition 12.1] *(note: for the provision of MVNO Services)\** of the Licence and defaulted by the Licensee;

“Business Day” means a day other than a Saturday or Sunday on which the banks in Hong Kong are open for general business;

“Hong Kong” means the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People’s Republic of China;

“Licence” means Services-Based Operator Licence;

“Licensee” means [Name of Licensee] at [Address];

“Ordinance” means the Telecommunications Ordinance (Cap. 106, Laws of Hong Kong);

“Qualifying Bank” means an institution holding a full banking licence under the Banking Ordinance (Cap. 155);

## 1.2 Construction

In this Performance Bond, unless the contrary intention appears,

- (a) a provision of law is a reference to that provision as amended, extended or re-enacted;
- (b) a reference to any document shall include that document as it may be amended, novated or supplemented from time to time;
- (c) a clause is a reference to a clause of this Performance Bond;
- (d) a reference to any person shall include its successors and assigns; and
- (e) headings are for convenience only and are to be ignored in construing this Performance Bond.

\* To delete where appropriate

## **2. PERFORMANCE BOND**

- 2.1 In the event that the Authority imposes a financial penalty on the Licensee pursuant to section 36C of the Ordinance due to the Licensee's breach of [Special Conditions 2.1, 7.1 and/or 8.1] (*note: for the provision of ETS*) / [Special Condition 12.1] (*note: for the provision of MVNO Services*)\* of the Licence, and the Licensee defaults the payment of the financial penalty as required by the Authority, the Bank shall upon demand made by the Government in writing and without proof or conditions satisfy and discharge without cavil or delay the Bonded Sum Payable, provided that the aggregate liability of the Bank under this Performance Bond to the Government shall not exceed the Bonded Sum.
- 2.2 The obligations under this Performance Bond constitute direct primary, irrevocable and unconditional obligations of the Bank.
- 2.3 The Bank shall be discharged from all further liability under this Performance Bond after the Bank has paid the Bonded Sum Payable to the Government or the Bank is notified by the Authority that its liability under this Performance Bond is discharged.
- 2.4 This Performance Bond shall remain effective until the Bank has paid the Bonded Sum Payable to the Government or the Bank is notified by the Authority that its liability under this Performance Bond is discharged. In accordance with Clause 2.1 no demand may be made under this Performance Bond after [date] (1 year plus the expiry date of the Licence).

## **3. MAXIMUM LIMIT**

The maximum amount for which the Bank shall be liable under this Performance Bond shall not exceed the aggregate of:

- (a) the Bonded Sum; and
- (b) the aggregate of all sums payable under clauses 4 and 7.

## **4. INTEREST AND COSTS**

The Bank shall pay interest on the Bonded Sum Payable from the date of

\* To delete where appropriate

demand to the date of payment in full (both dates inclusive) compounded quarterly (both before and after judgment) at 2 per cent per annum over the prime rate quoted by The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited from time to time. The interest shall be payable on demand and accrue from day to day on the basis of the number of days elapsed and a 365-day year.

## **5. WAIVER OF DEFENCES**

Subject to Clauses 2.3 and 2.4, the liability of the Bank under this Performance Bond shall remain in full force and effect and not be prejudiced, affected, discharged, impaired or diminished by any act, omission or circumstance which, but for this clause, might prejudice, affect, discharge, impair or diminish that liability including, without limitation, and whether or not known to the Bank:

- (a) any time or waiver granted to, or release of or composition with, the Licensee or any other person;
- (b) any suspension, cancellation, revocation, withdrawal, expiration or amendment of, or variation to, the Licence (including, without limitation, extensions of time for performance) or any concession or waiver by the Authority, the Government, the Chief Executive in Council, the Chief Executive or, without limitation, any other person in respect of the Licensee's obligations under the Licence;
- (c) any forbearance or waiver of any right, power or remedy the Authority, the Government, the Chief Executive in Council or the Chief Executive or, without limitation any other person, may have against the Licensee;
- (d) any act or omission of the Licensee pursuant to any other arrangement with the persons referred to in (c) above or with the Bank; or
- (e) the liquidation, administration, dissolution, lack of capacity or authority, or any change in the name or constitution of the Licensee or the Bank.

## **6. ADDITIONAL SECURITY**

This Performance Bond is in addition to and not in substitution for or prejudiced by any present and future guarantee, lien or other security held

by the Government as security for the obligations of the Licensee. The Government's rights, powers and remedies under this Performance Bond are in addition to and not exclusive of those provided by law.

## **7. NO DEDUCTIONS AND TAXES**

All sums payable under this Performance Bond shall be paid in full without set-off or counter-claim and free and clear of, and without deduction of or withholding for, or on account of, any present or future taxes, duties or other charges. If any payment is subject to any tax, duty or charge, or if the Bank is required by law to make any deduction or withholding, the Bank shall pay the tax, duty or charge and shall pay to the Government any additional amounts as shall result in the Government receiving a net amount equal to the full amount which it would have received had no payment, deduction or withholding been required.

## **8. PAYMENTS**

All payments to be made by the Bank under this Performance Bond shall be made in immediately available funds in the currency and in the manner as the Government may specify.

## **9. WARRANTY**

The Bank warrants that this Performance Bond constitutes its legally binding obligations enforceable in accordance with its terms (subject to insolvency laws and creditors' rights generally and principles of equity) and does not conflict with any law, regulation or instrument binding on or relating to the Bank and that this Performance Bond is within its powers and has been duly authorised by it.

## **10. INFORMATION AND CONSENTS**

The Bank shall:

- (a) supply the Government with publicly available information as to itself and (if applicable) its subsidiaries as the Government may reasonably request;
- (b) promptly obtain all official and other consents, licences and

authorizations necessary or desirable for the entry into and performance of its obligations under this Performance Bond, whether or not performance has become due; and

- (c) promptly notify the Government if the Bank ceases to be a Qualifying Bank. The Bank warrants that all consents, licences and authorizations required or desirable under existing law in accordance with this clause have been obtained.

## **11. NOTICES**

11.1 All documents arising out of or in connection with this Performance Bond shall be served:

- (a) on the Government, at 29th Floor, Wu Chung House, 213 Queen's Road East, Wanchai, Hong Kong marked for the attention of the Office of the Communications Authority; and

- (b) on the Bank, at its address stated in this Performance Bond.

11.2 The Government and the Bank may change their respective nominated addresses for service of documents to another address in Hong Kong by giving not less than five Business Days' prior written notice to each other. All notices, demands and communications must be in writing.

11.3 Any notice, demand or communication sent to the Government or the Bank as provided in this clause shall be deemed to have been given, if sent by post, two Business Days after posting (and in proving delivery it shall be sufficient to provide that the notice, demand or communication was properly addressed and put in the post), if delivered by hand, at the time of delivery or, if sent by facsimile, at the time of despatch.

## **12. ASSIGNMENTS**

The Bank shall not assign, transfer, novate or dispose of any of its rights and obligations under this Performance Bond. The Government may assign all or any part of its rights and benefits under this Performance Bond at any time without the consent of the Licensee or the Bank.

### **13. REMEDIES AND WAIVERS**

No delay or omission of the Government in exercising any right, power or remedy under this Performance Bond shall impair that right, power or remedy or constitute a waiver of it nor shall any single or partial exercise of any right, power or remedy preclude any other or further exercise of it or the exercise of any other right, power or remedy. The rights, powers and remedies provided in this Performance Bond are cumulative and not exclusive of any rights, powers or remedies which the Government would otherwise have.

### **14. GOVERNING LAW AND FORUM**

14.1 This Performance Bond shall be governed by laws for the time being in force in Hong Kong and the Bank agrees to submit to the non-exclusive jurisdiction of the courts of Hong Kong.

14.2 The Bank irrevocably appoints [ ] of [ ] as its agent for service of process in connection with proceedings in the Hong Kong Courts and agrees that any process shall be sufficiently and effectively served on it if delivered to that agent at that address, or in any other manner permitted by law. Nothing in this clause is to limit right of the Government to take proceedings against the Bank in any other court of competent jurisdiction but this provision applies only to the extent that it does not prejudice the above agreement as to the jurisdiction of the Hong Kong Courts.

14.3 The Bank irrevocably and generally consents in respect of any legal action or proceedings anywhere (whether for an injunction, specific performance, damages or otherwise) arising out of or in connection with this Performance Bond to the giving of any relief or the issue of any process in connection with it including, without limitation, the making, enforcement or execution against any assets whatsoever (irrespective of their use or intended use) of any order (whether or not pre-judgment) or judgment which may be made or given there, and irrevocably and unconditionally waives, in any such action or proceedings anywhere, any immunity from that action or those proceedings, from attachment of its assets prior to judgment, other attachment of assets and from execution of judgment or other enforcement.

## 15. COUNTERPARTS

This Performance Bond may be executed in any number of counterparts, and this has the same effect as if the signatures on the counterparts were on a single copy of this Performance Bond.

IN WITNESS whereof this Performance Bond has been executed and delivered as a deed on the date which appears first on page 1.

THE COMMON SEAL of [ ]

was affixed hereto in

the presence of :-

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Director

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Director/Secretary