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Via email

Attn: Senior Telecommunications Engineer (Spectrum Planning) 1
Office of the Communications Authority (OFCA)
29/F Wu Chung House
213 Queen's Road East
Wanchai, Hong Kong

Subject: Comments to the OFCA Consultation on Proposed Change in the Allocation
of the 3.4 – 3.7 GHz Band from Fixed Satellite Service to Mobile Service

The Asia-Pacific Satellite Communications Council (“APSCC”) is pleased to express our views on OFCA’s consultation on the proposed change in the allocation of the 3.4-3.7 GHz Band from Fixed Satellite Services (“FSS) to mobile services.

APSCC is a membership-based non-profit organization representing the satellite and space-industries including satellite operators, manufacturers, system integrators, service providers, and government organizations. APSCC has 95 members worldwide including all satellite operators based in Hong Kong. A complete list of APSCC members is available at http://www.apsc.org.kr/sub2_1.asp. APSCC works with regulators around the world to design and promote regulatory structures that permit effective satellite services.

APSCC membership includes global satellite companies delivering essential communications services to modern societies including using C-Band radio frequencies in the 3.4-4.2 GHz band. APSCC members regularly attend annual events including CommunicAsia held in May in Singapore, the Satellite Workshop at the Policy & Regulatory Forum for the Pacific 10 in April this year in Fiji, and the ITU Satellite Symposium held in August this year in Bangkok, to discuss the continued role and development of the sector in the Asia-Pacific region.

To promote the industry growth and to accelerate the efficient introduction of services via satellites in the Asia-Pacific region, APSCC also regularly organizes the Satcom Panel at PTC in January in Hawaii, the Satellite Communications Summit at CommunicAsia in May in Singapore, and its annual Asia-Pacific Satellite Communications, Broadcasting and Space Conference and Exhibition in October in various countries in Asia. The 16th Asia-Pacific Satellite Communications, Broadcasting and Space Conference and Exhibition (APSCC 2013 Satellite Conference and Exhibition) was held in Hong Kong in 2013 with active support from APSCC members in Hong Kong.

APSCC supports the views expressed by the Cable & Satellite Broadcasting Association of Asia (“CASBAA”) that:

- The proposed re-allocation of the 3.4-3.7 GHz band to remove the co-primary FSS allocation is premature and that more study and more warning of all concerned parties is required to ensure that vital satellite services in Hong Kong are not lost altogether or significantly degraded by the CA’s proposal.

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- Existing and future SMATV/EFTNS/SPETS, TVRO and TT&C operations operating in the adjacent band of 3.7-4.2 GHz need to be protected with the implementation of mitigation measures, such as an out-of-band emission limit together with CA's suggested guard band.
- A shortened advance notice period for a Proposed Re-Allocation in early 2020 is neither warranted nor sufficient. As the CA notes, the design lifetime of geostationary satellites is 15 years and they can remain in orbit for more than 20 years, and a decision to re-allocate the 3.4-3.7 GHz band would strand the investments of, for example, Hong Kong satellite operators that use the band for services and/or TT&C. Normally, a shortened notice period is applicable if a licensee is failing to meet some license requirements, for example to roll out or to continue adequately to provide a licensed service. This is clearly not the case here. The satellite operators, their service provider and content provider customers and end-users of the services have done nothing wrong, yet will be penalized by such action. This will set a dangerous precedent for spectrum assignment and regulation in Hong Kong, signaling that any spectrum may be "up for grabs" at any time at the regulator's whim, regardless of its current utilization compared to other available spectrum.
- Protection is essential for the TT&C channels of the licensed satellite networks at their specific locations from any harmful interference caused by new mobile services.

APSCC remains at OFCA's disposal for any further consultation or discussion related to the practical aspects of ensuring the coexistence between FSS and mobile services in this and in adjacent frequency bands. APSCC agrees to its comments being available for public viewing on OFCA's website.

Sincerely,



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President

Asia-Pacific Satellite Communications Council

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