

## COMMUNICATIONS DAY

28 March 2017

Telecom news you can use since 1994

ISSUE 5342

## Space lobby calls for gov't to urgently back an Australian space agency

Australia's space sector could double its annual revenues of A\$3-4 billion within five years if the federal government backed the establishment of an Australian Space Agency. That's the view of the Space Industry Association of Australia, which is calling for such an agency to oversee a national space strategy.

SIAA is urging the government to use a major international space conference to be held in Adelaide later this year as the impetus to commit to an Australian Space Agency. The International Astronautical Congress, billed as the world's largest space meeting, will be held in the South Australian capital in September – the first time it has come to Australia.

SIAA also suggests in a new whitepaper that a national strategy could have greater long term benefits. It said the new agency should have an aim of capturing 4% of the world market for Australian industry within 20 years – a five-fold increase in the industry's current global market share.

According to the industry body, the Australian space sector currently produces annual revenues of A\$3-4 billion and employs between 9,500 and 11,500 people from its 0.8% share of the global space economy.

Calls for an Australian Space Agency are not new. A 2008 report by a Senate Standing Committee on Economics backed a space agency, noting at the time that Australia was one of the only Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development countries without such a body.

Australian Centre for Space Engineering Research director Andrew Dempster has also been calling for a dedicated space agency and a national strategy for the sector. He told CommsDay that a renewed campaign ahead of the IAC event was timely.

“The hope is that the [SIAA] whitepaper will play a part in stimulating the federal government to either set up an agency or at the least to set up a space program,” he said.

According to the industry association, Australia benefits from access provided by partner nations such as the United States, Japan and Europe for much of its satellite data – traditionally at very little cost to the government. However, that data is critical across a number of areas such as weather forecasting, onshore and offshore mining,

# COMMSDAY SUMMIT 2017

**Monday, April 10 and  
Tuesday, April 11, 2017**  
**Westin Hotel, Sydney**  
**Delegate registration inclusive  
of two buffet lunches**

## Industry-leading keynotes and nearly 40 expert telecom speakers and panelists

CommsDay Summit returns bigger and better as the telecom sector embarks on a major year of delivery and transformation. On the fixed side, NBN is now ramping up for its fastest deployments yet and the RSP market is set to be shaken up with new entrants. On the mobile side, operators are now focusing on 5G: what it is and how to get there.

Elsewhere regulatory and policy challenges in the form of USO reform, spectrum, the future of the ACMA and how to regulate for the Internet of Things are also hot topics for discussion.

We've assembled a top line-up of speakers representing operators, government agencies, parliament, technology suppliers and industry experts to guide you through two days of stimulating discussion and thought leadership. I hope you can join us.

*Grahame Lynch, CommsDay*

### HEAR THE LATEST FROM TELECOM

**OPERATORS>** MON AM: Vodafone CEO Inaki Berroeta. Vocus head of corporate and wholesale operations Alex West. Symbio Networks CEO Rene Sugo .MON PM: Equinix Business Development Director, Networks & Content, Asia Pacific Andrew Oon. Optus acting Vice President of Corporate and Regulatory Affairs Andrew Sheridan. TUES AM: NBN director network engineering Pete Ryan; 9.50am Superloop CEO Bevan Slatery. Telstra Wholesale group director Will Irving.



### HEAR FROM POLITICIANS, PUNDITS AND POLICY MAKERS>

MON AM: Communications Minister Mitch Fifield. MON PM: Communications Alliance CEO John Stanton. ACCAN CEO Teresa Corbin. Shadow regional communications minister Stephen Jones. Consultants Reg Coutts and Bob James. TUE AM: Shadow communications minister Michelle Rowland. ACMA chairman Richard Bean

### HEAR FROM INTERNATIONAL TECHNOLOGY THOUGHT LEADERS>

MON AM Nokia Bell Labs president and corporate CTO Marcus Weldon. Juniper Networks VP and CMO (APAC) Ashish Dhawan. MON PM Adtran CTO EMEA and APAC Ronan Kelly. Ciena Senior Director, Business Development & Solutions (Asia Pacific) Anup Changaroth. Ericsson APAC CTO Dr. Magnus Ewerbring. TUE AM Cisco Director, APJ Cloud and SP Channel Clayton Pine. Cradlepoint director, Asia Pacific channel and carrier Gareth Parker. Arris senior staff solutions architect (video) Asia Pacific Scot Mason

### HEAR FROM EXPERTS IN VERTICAL TECHNOLOGIES AND SOLUTIONS>

MON AM Cyient senior solutions consultant Kiran Solipuram. MON PM F5 Networks Director Systems Engineering Richard Duncan. TUES PM: Net2Edge Asia Pac MD Graeme Bellis. Netcomm Wireless chief technology officer Steve Collins. BAE Systems director Cyber Intelligence & Security Rajiv Shah.

## REGISTER NOW TO ENSURE YOUR ATTENDANCE

Registration link is at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/commsday-summit-2017>

LIMITED SPONSORSHIP PACKAGES STILL AVAILABLE

Email Veronica Kennedy-Good at [veronica@mindsharevents.com.au](mailto:veronica@mindsharevents.com.au)

# COMMSDAY SUMMIT 2017

## INNOVATION PARTNER



## DINNER SPONSOR



## WIFI SPONSOR



## REFRESHMENT SPONSOR



## SUPPORTER SPONSORS



## PLATINUM SPONSORS



## GOLD SPONSORS



## SILVER SPONSORS



### DAY ONE: MONDAY APRIL 10

KEYNOTES: 9am Vodafone CEO Inaki Berroeta; 9.25am Communications Minister Mitch Fifield; 9.50am Vocus head of corporate and wholesale operations Alex West; 10.15am Symbio Networks CEO Rene Sugo. 10.40 Morning tea 11.20 Nokia Bell Labs president and corporate CTO Marcus Weldon; 11.40 Cyient senior solutions consultant Kiran Solipuram; 12.00 Juniper Networks VP and CMO (APAC) Ashish Dhawan; 12.20 Equinix Business Development Director, Networks & Content, Asia Pacific Andrew Oon; 12.40 F5 Networks Director Systems Engineering Richard Duncan 1.00 Lunch

TECHNOLOGY SESSION ONE: 2.10 Brocade Communications senior director Jason Baden; 2.30 Adtran CTO EMEA and APAC Ronan Kelly; 2.50 Ciena Senior Director, Business Development & Solutions (Asia Pacific) Anup Changaroth; 3.10 Ericsson APAC CTO Dr. Magnus Ewerbring ; 3.30 Afternoon tea

REGULATION, POLICY & FUTURES SESSION: 3.40 Communications Alliance CEO John Stanton; 4.00 ACCAN CEO Teresa Corbin 4.20 Shadow regional communications minister Stephen Jones; 4.40 Optus acting Vice President of Corporate and Regulatory Affairs Andrew Sheridan 5 Reg Coutts and Bob James

### DAY TWO: TUESDAY APRIL 11

KEYNOTES: 9am NBN director network engineering Pete Ryan; 9.50am Superloop CEO Bevan Slattery; 10.15am Shadow communications minister Michelle Rowland; 10.40 ACMA chairman Richard Bean; 11.05 Morning tea 11.25 Cisco Director, APJ Cloud and SP Channel Clayton Pine; 11.45 Telstra Wholesale group director Will Irving; 12.05 Cradlepoint director, Asia Pacific channel and carrier Gareth Parker; 12.45 Arris senior staff solutions architect (video) Asia Pacific Scot Mason 1.05 Lunch

TECHNOLOGY SESSION TWO: 2.00 Net2Edge Asia Pac MD Graeme Bellis 2.20 Netcomm Wireless CTO Steve Collins' 2.40 BAE Systems director Cyber Intelligence & Security Rajiv Shah 3.00 Afternoon Tea

REGULATION, POLICY & FUTURES SESSION 2 3.20-4.40 AFTERNOON MEGA PANEL

mitigation and management of natural disasters, water resource management, design and assessment of conservation areas, insurance assessment, and land use planning.

Given the public and private sector reliance on earth observation data, SIAA has warned that Australian needs to have more input into such systems.

“There is a vital national interest in maintaining the infrastructure, capabilities and international relationships necessary to secure access to satellite data sources. A key issue in the development of our national space policy should therefore be the securing of long term access, for strategic purposes, preferably from Australian territory, to foreign owned space segment capabilities, both military and civil,” the whitepaper states.

“Furthermore, as the geo-political environment changes, Australia needs to become a technology contributor to those partnerships, or it risks significantly rising costs or, even, loss of access. Australia would also be well-advised to consider ways to reduce its dependence on the traditional data sources, and consider its own national priorities in the development of new systems,” it added.

**AGENCY FRAGMENTATION:** According to the report, there are currently over 11 different departments or government agencies involved in an inter-departmental committee to co-ordinate the country's space activities. However, there is no single agency responsible for setting priorities for spending on space hardware or services, or driving growth in the Australian space industry.

“This has led to confusion amongst international space agencies and contractors, who are unsure as to who to contact within the Australian government, and who contact a variety of government agencies or industry bodies, such as the SIAA, to obtain information about business opportunities and collaboration. While responsibility for international space relations remains fragmented across a range of agencies and offices there is little accountability for lack of progress and little incentive for success,” it warned.

The SIAA has called for the appointment of an interim board of management ahead of establishing a space agency that would report directly to the relevant minister. It said the first step would be to conduct a global search for a suitably qualified space agency head and overseeing the transfer of current departmental staff.

The interim board would be selected from key stakeholders including industry representatives, while an urgent priority would be to oversee the preparation of a foundation strategic plan for the space sector.

“The need for this reform is urgent. We cannot be left behind while the rest of the world reaches for space. It’s time to stop being a mere consumer of space services and to actively shape the future of our space sector,” the industry body concluded.

Geoff Long

## Ovum: Australian OTT video market worth A\$1bn in revenue by 2022, with almost 7m users

Ovum has forecast that the Australian online video market will swell to 6.9 million users by 2022, up from 2.6 million in 2016, with a commensurate surge in revenues to just under US\$820 million or around A\$1 billion.

NBN has jumped on the numbers, with product and pricing EGM Sarah Palmer particularly highlighting the increasingly large or unlimited data allowances offered by some NBN resellers as a key enabler for a booming broadband TV market – and contrasting them against mobile plans with increasingly fast access speeds but comparatively limited data caps.

Ovum’s projections would see the number of Australian over-the-top video subscriptions increase 165% between 2016 and 2022, with Australian OTT revenues increasing 132% from US\$353.7 million in 2016 to US\$819 million in 2022. Those numbers would actually have the Australian OTT video market expanding faster than global projections; the analyst firm tipped global OTT video subs to increase 106% from 271 million in 2016 to 558 million in 2022, and global revenues to rise 90% from US\$31.8 billion to US\$60.4 billion over the same period.

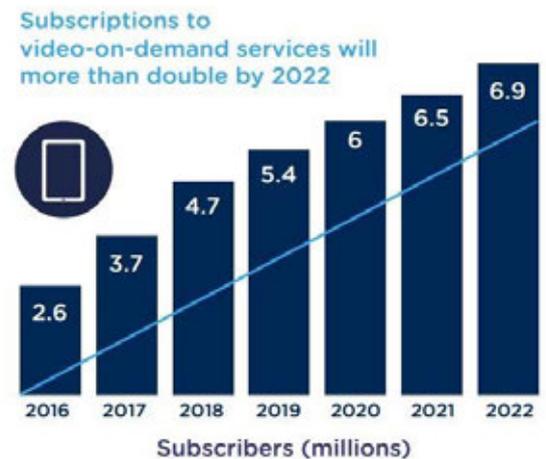
Ovum also suggested that subscription-based OTT players like Netflix and Stan would dominate the Australian market, generating 70% of all OTT revenues ahead of digital rental services like Apple’s iTunes.

“If we are going to move from a broadcast TV market to a streaming TV market then it is crucial that all Australians have access to good quality broadband at affordable prices and the NBN delivers that,” said NBN’s Palmer. “Our retail customers are continually modifying their retail plans to include more and more data - there are even unlimited data plans for as low as A\$60 per month - meaning that Aussies can stream away to their hearts’ content and never have to worry about the bill.”

“You certainly can’t say the same thing about mobile networks where we are seeing operators advertise ever faster speeds but still keep a tight cap on how much data can be consumed. Even on a more generous 10GB plan, far higher than the average being purchased, an end-user could not watch very much streaming video before they have to start worrying about bill shock!”

“The global launch of Netflix has changed the way we buy and watch entertainment forever,” said Ovum global TV practice leader Ed Barton. “There is now a host of contenders on the market eager to share in a growing market opportunity as Australian audiences increasingly demand choice, ease of use and extremely good value for money in what is a very competitive market.”

However, in an address to the Ovum OTT Summit in Sydney, Barton did add for



context that OTT revenues were unlikely to exceed 30% or so of conventional pay-TV revenues even by 2022.

**TELCO FUTURES IN OTT TRANSITION:** Also at the Summit, Barton suggested how telco operators – which, he said, were getting more assertive in the OTT space – might respond to the continuing expansion of the medium, becoming increasingly critical customers for content and players in entertainment distribution.

“This is a narrative that has been going on for some time now... we’ve seen some interesting moves from a number of operators. Basically, if you want to sell broadband these days, it seems to be the belief that there has to be some kind of visual entertainment component to go alongside it,” he said. “We also come back to the point that, for many telcos and operators, every single service that they sell is arguably fungible, substitutable with what another operator can offer... [but] content is not substitutable or fungible. If someone wants to watch ‘Game of Thrones’, then another historical epic fantasy drama probably isn’t going to cut it!”

I think this is something that telcos and operators have historically struggled with, regarding content as just another input to a technology stack – when actually, it’s very, very different.”

“So we do see, mainly from the richer telcos, various efforts to perhaps differentiate some of the other services they sell by investing in some type of content proposition.”

Petroc Wilton

## **Northern Territory calls for greater use of fixed wireless NBN across top end**

The Northern Territory government has called for an extension of NBN's fixed wireless footprint across the top end, particularly in areas supported by existing telecommunications infrastructure. In a submission to the joint standing committee on the NBN, it also argued that the Sky Muster satellite service was prone to poor performance in the Territory due to its extreme weather conditions.

The submission revealed that the NT government had formally asked the federal government to approach NBN to change its service delivery model for 34 remote communities to a fixed wireless solution. It said this would provide residents with a superior broadband service compared to the proposed satellite solution.

However, the request was rebuffed by minister for regional communications Fiona Nash, who responded that NBN was building the network “at arm’s length from the Australian government.” She said network design decisions were thus operational matters for the company.

The NT submission argued that extension of the fixed wireless service would have the added benefit of faster and more reliable access to the internet, be free of the download limitations from NBN's fair use policy, and put less pressure on the satellite service for remaining users.

“The Northern Territory government maintains that, given the Australian government’s stated position on the reuse of existing telecommunications infrastructure, the

use of satellite as the network platform for broadband delivery where existing infrastructure is available must be avoided in order to provide a suitable solution for residents in remote areas of the Northern Territory,” the submission noted.

“The Northern Territory Government urges the Australian Government and NBN to work collaboratively with the Northern Territory Government to find an equitable solution that will provide more reliable telecommunications services for Territorians living in remote communities. This will allow individuals to participate in the digital economy to improve their well-being, health, education, lifestyle and assist remote businesses to grow,” it said.

The Northern Territory has previously called for improved broadband and mobile communications in its submission to the 2015 Regional Telecommunications Independent Review. That submission also focussed on the need for basic telecommunications infrastructure in remote communities as well as pastoral and tourism enterprises.

Its most recent submission to the NBN committee was also critical of the company over its level of engagement with regional councils and the insufficient availability of installation contractors in the Territory. As an example it said a Department of Health objective to install 329 satellite services across 49 remote communities by 30 September 2017 may be unachievable if NBN contractors cannot meet demand.

And it said the NBN Local Government Charter highlighted a very low level of engagement for the Sky Muster footprint in regional areas in 2015-16 and 2016-17.

“This low level of engagement with regional councils has likely contributed to a poor understanding of the benefits of the service,” it said. “The majority of regional councils have advised they are not utilising the NBN Co Sky Muster service as it is cost prohibitive in comparison to metropolitan areas, not available through Telstra and does not provide business grade capacity.”

Geoff Long

## **Optus makes high-end data push with 100GB mobile plans**

Optus has made a play for customers with large data demands, announcing a 100GB mobile plan for postpaid consumers and SMBs. The plan costs A\$160 per month and comes with access to entertainment content including Spotify and Netflix as well as roaming data.

At the same time it has added a new option to its My Plan Plus suite that offers 30GB of data for A\$130 per month.

Optus mobile product VP Tim Cowan said the two new plans aimed to provide the best possible value for customers. “We were the first to launch plans that removed excess data fees. Then we made it easier for customers to get their entertainment fix without using their data. Now, we’re raising the stakes again by giving customers even more value – more data, more roaming and data-free entertainment,” he said.

The two plans are available to consumers as well as business customers, with the lat-

ter plans specifically tailored to suit the needs of a small business, Cowan said. Both plans offer a shared data option across up to five mobile broadband and mobile devices. Optus is also announcing a 30-day trial period with the new plans, allowing new handset users to cancel their contract after 30-days with no exit fees if they are not satisfied with the network.

Geoff Long

## **Qantas pushes back launch of in-flight Wi-Fi services**

Qantas has pushed back the media launch event for its NBN-driven in-flight Wi-Fi services, citing stability issues, but says it's still on track for a broader rollout across its domestic fleet from the middle of the year.

The airline is looking to deliver speeds up to ten times faster than conventional in-flight Wi-Fi through the use of NBN's Sky Muster satellite, and has teamed with Foxtel, Netflix and Spotify to deliver onboard video and audio streaming services. It had invited CommsDay and other media and observers to a special charter flight yesterday to mark the official launch of the service with a special preview, before pushing out across its fleet later on.

However, that media launch has now been delayed. "We've been testing in-flight Wi-Fi for several weeks and the performance has been strong. We were preparing to open it up to media and customers this week as we continue our fine-tuning over the next few months, but some stability issues have emerged that we need to fix before customers can use it," said the firm. "We're working with NBN and ViaSat to fix these issues very soon. We remain on-track for a broader roll out to the Qantas Domestic fleet from mid-2017."

Petroc Wilton

## **NTT testing next-gen network platform built on NFV, AI**

Japan's incumbent operator NTT Corp has moved into the testing stage of its next generation network platform, dubbed the 'NetroSphere' concept. First unveiled in 2015, NetroSphere is NTT's vision of an end-to-end service architecture for service provider networks that covers the entire stack of components, from servers, platforms and applications to management, orchestration and operating systems.

According to NEC and Netcracker Technology, NTT is now conducting a trial with their solutions on the network slicing component of NetroSphere, leveraging network functions virtualisation technology to build a flexible, cost effectively, and ultimately highly automated and intelligent network.

As part of the latest trial, NEC and Netcracker are providing NTT with a virtual customer premise equipment solution that supports NFV-based service provisioning and traffic engineering.

According to NEC, the vCPE allows services to be distributed to end-points through NFV. At the same time, intelligence built inside the vCPE will then direct traffic “from each device to the most adequate network” while an additional NEC feature called an “IoT service enabler,” allows the network to dynamically change distribution rules based on the status of traffic.

“This technology will allow service providers to efficiently utilise network resources only during the time those resources are needed, enabling the realisation of various services at a low cost,” NEC said. “As a result, these product and solution can contribute to the realisation of advanced networks for both fixed and mobile communications.”

Ultimately, NEC intends to implement artificial intelligence technologies within the architecture to further “strengthen both monitoring and analytics of network data traffic.”

Tony Chan

## **Ericsson scores NB-IoT deal in China, new 5G trial in Japan**

Ericsson has made further inroads with narrowband Internet of Things networking and 5G technologies in the Asia Pacific, announcing deals in China and Japan respectively. In China, Ericsson entered into a memorandum of understanding with China Mobile, AstraZeneca and the ‘hi-tech district’ of Wuxi to develop a solution to connect healthcare devices with NB-IoT technology.

According to Ericsson, the deal will see AstraZeneca connect healthcare equipment by introducing NB-IoT technology. Ericsson will help AstraZeneca integrate the technology into its healthcare products and develop “end-to-end functional certification” for solutions. AstraZeneca will also work with the Wuxi government to launch its China Commercial Innovation Centre to drive the implementation of IoT for healthcare.

Meanwhile, Ericsson and China Mobile’s Jiangsu branch will trial new applications using NB-IoT and other “cellular IoT technologies,” as well as provide the systems to support real time surveillance and equipment management solutions for terminals.

“The strategic partnership demonstrates how the government and the industry can work together to create an innovative ecosystem for China’s healthcare industry,” said Ericsson chairman Leif Johansson. “We anticipate that AstraZeneca and Ericsson will play more important roles in promoting the development of IoT for healthcare in China.”

Meanwhile, Ericsson has announced it will expand its 5G roadshow in Japan with the second phase of 5G trials with SoftBank. The latest trial will test 5G on the 28GHz millimetre-wave band, following earlier trials using 4.5GHz and 15GHz frequency bands.

According to Ericsson, the new trial will deploy more sophisticated techniques, including both outdoor and indoor systems, as well as mobility and stationary use cases. The latest trial will also test core 5G technologies such as massive multiple input multi-

ple output, massive beamforming, distributed MIMO, multi-user MIMO and beam tracking technologies.

“We are leveraging Ericsson’s test bed with 28GHz radio to validate a lot of advanced features at super low-latency and high throughput, which helps position us as a pioneer of 5G,” said SoftBank SVP Hideyuki Tsukuda.

Tony Chan

## **Huawei Marine claims 10% boost for unrepeated fibre system**

Huawei Marine has developed an optical transmission system that can now extend the distance unrepeated signals can travel by some 10%.

Demonstrated at OFC in California last week, Huawei was able to pipe optical signals on an unrepeated fibre over a distance of 648.9 km, replicating a breakthrough the company first achieved in September last year.

According to Huawei the new solution, based on its 100G technology, leveraged enhanced raman amplifier and remote optical pump amplifier technologies to achieve greater distances than existing unrepeated fibre platforms.

At OFC, Huawei Marine built a replica of its lab environment in Beijing so it could present the demonstration. By observing the signal spectrum on the receiver side and signal power evolution along the span, the system showed its high reliability and transmission capabilities during the demonstration, Huawei added.

“The ultra-long unrepeated system is quite complicated,” said Huawei Marine senior optical transmission engineer Ma Liping. “When it is applied commercially, I believe it will greatly benefit network operators by providing a cost-effective unrepeated system solutions over greater distances.”

Tony Chan

## **ZTE’s 20% net profit growth erased by US fine**

ZTE posted a net loss attributable to shareholders of RMB2.36 billion (US\$342m) as it booked the impact of a US\$892 million fine imposed on the company by the US government for breaking trade sanctions. Without the provision for the fine, ZTE would have posted net profits of RMB3.83 billion (US\$556m), a 19.2% increase compared to the previous year.

Revenue for the year was essentially flat at RMB101.2 billion (US\$14.68bn), compared to RMB100.1 billion (US\$14.52bn) in 2015. ZTE said it saw strong performances in its carrier networks and consumer businesses.

The carrier networks unit reported RMB58.9 billion (US\$8.54bn) in revenues for the year, compared to RMB57.22 billion (US\$8.3bn) the year before. According to the firm, its massive multiple input multiple output system has been deployed in more than 40 networks in over 30 countries while its software defined networking and network functions virtualisation solutions have been adopted by more than 180 networks

globally, including 40 new projects added during 2016.

ZTE also saw growth for the consumer business, which posted RMB33.5 billion (US\$4.86bn) in revenue, compared to RMB32.47 billion (US\$4.71bn) in 2015. ZTE said it is now the top 4 smartphone seller in the US, top 5 in Europe and top 3 in Australia.

Tony Chan

## **FCC amends 800MHz regulation to support mobile broadband**

The US Federal Communications Commission has amended previous rules governing wireless systems operating on the 800MHz frequency band.

According to the FCC, the changes to what it dubs “outdated rules” will facilitate the deployment of mobile broadband technologies such as LTE on the frequency, dubbed the ‘cellular band’ in the US.

“To accommodate continued skyrocketing demand for mobile broadband, the revisions adopted today will allow providers to use cellular spectrum to provide mobile broadband service to the public more efficiently, reduce barriers to innovation and investment and ease administrative burdens,” the FCC said.

Specifically, the FCC changed the technical rules governing the amount of power systems can transmit. With the new changes, operators will now be allowed to “transmit the same amount of power across the spectrum band, whether they are deploying a legacy (narrow bandwidth) technology or modern (wider bandwidth) technology like LTE.”

At the same time, the FCC said it will now treat the 800MHz like other commercial wireless spectrum bands, including rules on power measurement, out of band emissions, field strength and discontinuance of operations.

Tony Chan

## **Hong Kong launches investigation into BT bid-rigging: FT report**

Hong Kong’s competition authority has reportedly launched an investigation into alleged bid-rigging by BT on a tender from the YWCA. According to the news first reported by the Financial Times, Hong Kong’s Competition Commission has accused BT’s Hong Kong unit of manipulating the bidding process for the contract to supply new IT infrastructure, worth an estimated £200,000.

The allegations pointed to BT colluding with its technology partners to effectively submit dummy bids against BT’s original bid to match minimum tendering requirements, which called for at least five competing bids. Insiders with knowledge of the situation said YWCA decided to reissue the tender, which BT failed to win in its second time around.

A BT spokesperson in London declined to comment to the FT, noting that the com-

pany is “continuing to engage with the Commission.”

While the Hong Kong investigation is ongoing, it casts further doubt on BT’s overseas operations following the massive multi-year accounting scandal uncovered in its Italian unit, which forced the operator to write down some £513 million and caused a £8 billion drop in the firm’s market value when it was made public.

Tony Chan

## CLARIFICATION

A glitch in our content system led to the reprinting of some older content in yesterday’s CommsDay, specifically in the articles relating to Verizon, Huawei and Nokia. We apologise for any confusion caused.

## SINGTEL AND TELKOMSEL EXPAND MOBILE MONEY SERVICES

Singtel and Telkomsel have launched a real-time mobile remittance service to Indonesia. The service will be made available through SingCash under the Singtel Dash brand and allows customers in Singapore to send money to PT Pos Indonesia’s 4,500 cash-out points across Indonesia.

## COMCAST READYING “SKINNY TV”

US cable giant Comcast is reportedly readying an online television offering designed to compete with other over-the-top video services. According to a report in Bloomberg, Comcast is compiling a service that leverages its digital rights holdings with existing programs and potentially new streaming rights with others as the foundation of a “skinny” television offering that offers subscribers a trimmed down and less expensive alternative to its full cable TV service. While Comcast has yet to unveil any concrete plans to actually launch the service, commentators pointed to competitive threats from new streaming offerings from DirecTV, DISH and Sony.

## ON THIS DAY 10 YEARS AGO: FROM THE COMMSDAY 2007 ARCHIVES

Telecom New Zealand revealed that its proposed acquisition of PowerTel would see the company folded into a subsidiary named Telecom Australia, bringing the brand name back to the Australian market... TNZ was also set to book a NZ\$2.2 billion gain on the sale of its Yellow Pages Group directories business... Pipe Networks locked in capacity sale commitments and was developing the structure of funding for its planned A\$240 million undersea cable linking Australia and Guam.