

Information on APT Broadband & ICT Brunei Darussalam

POLICY / REGULATION

The Authority for Info-communications Technology Industry of Brunei Darussalam or AiTi intends to issue licences for broadband based on a two-tier licensing structure. AiTi will issue a 20-year Infrastructure Provider for the Telecommunications Industry (“InTi”) Licence to the providers of broadband infrastructure, and a 7-year Service Provider for the Telecommunications Industry (“SeTi”) Licence to the providers of broadband services.

Where frequency spectrum is required by an InTi Licensee to operate its Broadband infrastructure, the right to use the allocated frequency spectrum will also be granted under the InTi Licence.

The approach to licensing of activities for AiTi is based on the Negative List approach. It takes a middle ground approach, with a more generic description of the classes of activities, complimented by a negative list approach to allow AiTi to prohibit specific types of services or method of implementation. This approach strives to retain flexibility and adaptability of the regime towards technological changes, while at the same time retaining sufficient control for the regulator to shape the development of the industry and the deployment of services in the market.

While work has been completed on the above licensing and regulatory framework, this framework is yet to be implemented and is subject to the coming into force of the Telecommunications Order, 2001 on the date of which is yet to be decided.

It is recognized that the evolution of technology and convergence will bring about greater overlap between the responsibilities of different regulatory bodies. As a result, in the longer term, the different regulatory functions would be rationalized to avoid confusion in the industry recognizing the fact that the next generation of services (which will include voice, data, video etc) will come through a single converged broadband network.

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STRATEGY / OPERATION

The key strategies to encourage the widespread of the usage of broadband in Brunei Darussalam shall be as follows

- Implementing a regulatory framework that encourages rather than hamper new market entrants in the area of broadband development
- Establishing partnerships with the private sector to share broadband development costs
- Offering an attractive subsidy or incentive to the broadband service providers who build broadband infrastructures to rural areas
- Developing and allowing new applications for broadband internet that will drive broadband usage and expansion

NETWORKS/ TECHNOLOGY

The Government of Brunei Darussalam has been very supportive of the development of telecommunications infrastructure and has over the past 10 years, invested heavily to the tune of hundreds of million dollars to build such an infrastructure which in turn has rolled out services which has enhanced the competitive edge for Brunei companies.

In terms of the backbone network infrastructure, Brunei Darussalam's transmission network has long been 100% digital based on both optical and digital microwave systems. Back in 1999, Brunei Darussalam embarked on an ambitious project to install a nation-wide optical transport and access network infrastructure using the Synchronous Digital Hierarchy (SDH) optical fiber technology. This infrastructure provided Brunei Darussalam with a high capacity optical network which was able to offer customers more bandwidth and very high communication speeds for multimedia and data applications.

Back in the year 2000, Jabatan Telekom Brunei (the fixed line incumbent) introduced a broadband internet service called "e-speed". The high speed data communications service uses ADSL technology to connect Internet users at higher speeds of 128kbit/s, 256kbit/s, 384kbit/s or 512kbit/s with unlimited surfing depending on the service package that these users will subscribe to. Prior to this, access to the Internet was

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through dial up modems with maximum speeds of 56kbit/s. With the introduction of access speeds of two times or more and with unlimited surfing at a cost of around US\$50 per month (for 128kbit/s), the e-speed broadband service went off to a flying start.

Today, they are around 3,000 broadband Internet subscribers in Brunei Darussalam. It is hoped that that the way forward to increase the numbers is to introduce competition which in turn will drive down subscription costs and make it more affordable to a wider range of people.

At the same time, it is also recognized that there may be the availability of a new broadband technologies that may be able to extend broadband access to homes in a more economical way. One such possible technology is the emerging wireless broadband technology that uses the unlicensed part of the radio spectrum thereby avoiding the payment of large amount of spectrum fees which in turn lowers the cost of offering the service to customers.

Another emerging broadband technology is broadband through the power line. If this technology takes off, it will mean that all power plugs in homes or offices connected to the power distribution grid will effectively be broadband access points. Such a thought of being able to spur the growth of broadband and make it accessible to all homes is exciting and piggybacking on an existing infrastructure such as the power line seems very efficient and holistic.

APPLICATIONS

One of the goals in the next 5 - 10 years is developing Brunei Darussalam as an information society or e-society where there is a widespread use of ICT by its citizens. The use of ICT enables citizens to improve their quality of life. Strategies will be formulated to encourage citizens to be aware of the benefits that an e-society brings and seeks to encourage greater ICT adoption and higher level infocomm literacy among Bruneians.

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By moving towards an e-society, it enhances Brunei Darussalam's capacity and competitiveness in meeting the challenges of the increasingly globalize and ICT driven economy. There are a number of e-initiatives such as e-Government, e-Learning, e-Health, e-Business that have been identified that will place Brunei Darussalam on the right track towards becoming an e-society and in doing so this will encourage the growth of broadband usage in the country.

AGENCIES

Address and websites of related agencies assisting or involved in the development of ICT and Information Infrastructure in Brunei Darussalam

Name of Agency / Organisation	Address	Websites
Authority for Info-communications Technology Industry of Brunei Darussalam (AiTi)	Block B14, Spg 32-5, Kg Anggerek Desa, Jalan Berakas Bandar Seri Begawan BB3713 Brunei Darussalam	www.aiti.gov.bn

Name	Mr Peter Chin
Business Title	Assistant Chief Executive
Div/Section	Regulatory and Technology Group
Organisation	Authority for Info-communications Technology Industry of Brunei Darussalam
Address	Block B14, Spg 32-5, Kg Anggerek Desa, Jalan Berakas Bandar Seri Begawan BB3713 Brunei Darussalam
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E-mail/URL's	peterchin@aiti.gov.bn

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Name of Agency / Organisation	Address	Websites
DataStream Technology Sdn Bhd	DST Headquarters, Jln Tungku Link, BE3619 Brunei Darussalam	www.dst-group.com

Name	Pg Aliudin bin Pg Hj Metarsat	
Business Title	Manager	
Div/Section	Infrastructure Access Network	
Organisation	DataStream Technology Sdn Bhd	
Address	DST Headquarters, Jln Tungku Link, BE3619 Brunei Darussalam	
Phone/Fax no	Phone no: +673 2 2410888	Fax no: +673 2 2411122
E-mail/URL's	aliudin@simpur.net.bn	

Name of Agency / Organisation	Address	Websites
Jabatan Telekom Brunei, Ministry of Communications	Old Airport Road, Jalan Berakas	www.telekom.gov.bn

Name	Awang Bakar bin Haji Mat Yasin	
Business Title	Broadband Deployment Manager	
Div/Section	Consumer, Strategic Business Unit	
Organisation	Jabatan Telekom Brunei	
Address	Old Airport Road, Jalan Berakas, Bandar Seri Begawan BB3510 Brunei Darussalam	
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