

**Working Group on Wireless Technology**  
**Information Note**  
**Government's initiatives in promoting wireless technology**

**Introduction**

The Office of Government Chief Information Officer (OGCIO) has formed a Task Force to follow up on the recommendations made by the Working Group on Promotion of Wireless Services and Technology in 2003. This paper summaries the promotional efforts made by the Government in wireless technology.

**Public Wireless LAN**

The OFTA has established class licences on public wireless LAN (PWLAN) services since January 2003. The provision of PWLAN services (e.g. wireless surfing on the Internet) is through a simple licensing mechanism. The application for licensing does not incur any fees and in order to be a licence holder. As of October 2004, there are 23 registered service providers providing PWLAN services at over 200 locations.

**Broadband Wireless Access (BWA) Services**

The OFTA has issued a public consultation paper in December 2004 on the introduction of class licences on Broadband Wireless Access services (including services based on the worldwide interoperability for Microwave Access (WiMAX) standard). In the consultation, OFTA proposes to allocate the 3.4 – 3.6 GHz frequency band gradually to BWA. OFTA also suggested that BWA in Hong Kong may initially be offered as a wireless extension of the conventional wireline based fixed network. The licensing of BWA services would therefore fall within the fixed carrier licensing regime. The OFTA is of the preliminary view that auction should be adopted for assigning the spectrum.

**The adoption of wireless technologies and services in the public sector**

The OGCIO has been coordinating the following wireless/mobile services and technologies projects in the Government:

OGCIO

(a) *Mobile Speech Web Sites* - In May 2004, the OGCIO launched the mobile speech websites for bureaux and departments to access and listen to government information from three government web sites on the fly through mobile devices.

(b) *Mobile email service* - In April 2003, the OGCIO launched a mobile email service for some of its management staff to access their emails through mobile handheld

devices. Over 60 government users have subscribed to this service. The OGCIO will continue to promote the service to bureaux/departments in the coming year.

(c) *Multimedia Messaging (MMS)* - The OGCIO and the Hong Kong Wireless Development Center (HKWDC) jointly provided a trial service of using office email systems to send MMS to B/Ds. The OGCIO will evaluate the effectiveness of the trial service when the pilot completes in end March 2005.

(d) *Tracking of asset items using RFID* - The OGCIO adopted RFID for tracking of valuable equipment of its IT Development Centre since mid 2004. It will share its experience on this project with other government departments.

#### The Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD)

(a) *RFID based Library System* - LCSD plans to adopt RFID technology for the Hong Kong Heritage Resource Centre to automate the manual workflow of managing inventory control, cataloguing, borrowing, returning and sorting of materials, so as to enhance overall efficiency. The library system will be launched in 2005.

(b) *Wireless Hotspot* - LCSD plans to provide wireless hotspot service at the Hong Kong Heritage Resource Centre. This will facilitate the visitors to access its web site and search information in the Internet. It will be launched in 2005.

#### ESDlife

Wireless ESD Service - Since August 2004, ESDlife has rolled out a number of wireless services for users of mobile phone and PDA. The services include local weather forecast, report of air pollution index, appointment booking for registration of HKID card, appointment booking for HK Smart ID Card replacement exercise and quota checking, marriage register quota checking, government press release and news announcement, etc. The wireless ESD services being planned for rollout in the first quarter of 2005 include request for immigration applications forms, Leisure Link activity enrollment and facility booking.

#### Judiciary

Tracking of Criminal Case Files using RFID - Judiciary plans to set up a Case File Tracking System using RFID technology in early 2006. The system will support instant tracking of criminal case files for searching and locating case files in the High Court Clerk of Court's Office.

#### Enhancing enterprise awareness of wireless technologies

Under the auspices of the Task Force, the Hong Kong Wireless Development Centre (HKWDC) has been working closely with the Hong Kong Productivity Council

(HKPC) and other trade associations to promote wireless technologies and demonstrate wireless e-commerce solutions to the public and the industry through various means. Since December 2003, more than 20 seminars covering various relevant technology topics were organized. The Government has also participated in the ICT Expo 2004 in April 2004 and the IT Roadshow for Public Housing Estates 2004 from July to December 2004, and broadcasted two series of radio episodes in February and March 2004.

To better understand the adoption level of the wireless services and technology in the trade and industry sectors, relevant questions were added to the "2004 Annual Survey on Information Technology Usage and Penetration in the Business Sector" and the "e-Business Adoption Survey 2004". The Census & Statistics Department has published the result of the former survey on December 6, 2004; the HKPC is conducting the latter survey.

The HKWDC has also conducted survey on the adoption of wireless technology in the logistics, tourism, financial services and entertainment sectors in Hong Kong, Mainland China, Taiwan, Japan and South Korea. The survey report has been published on the Internet for reference by the industry and the public.

#### **Development of seamless end-to-end Chinese language processing capabilities**

The OGCIO is participating in the "International Ideographs Core (IICORE)" initiative of the International Organization for Standardisation (ISO). The OGCIO has incorporated the IICORE into the Government's Interoperability Framework Version 3.0. The OGCIO, together with the HKWDC are also liaising with Chinese software vendors to discuss the feasibility and details of implementing the IICORE in their products.

The HKWDC has conducted research on the issues concerning Chinese character input and display on wireless and mobile devices in July 2004 and has reviewed the test results to facilitate further technology development.

#### **Enhancement of information security technologies and solutions**

The Government has setup a Wireless Security theme page in the InfoSec website (infosec.gov.hk) to promote public awareness, to educate and to share with the public the relevant security guidelines and best practice. The HKWDC is also conducting tests on the Mobile Virtual Private Network (Mobile VPN) solutions for Personal Digital Assistant (PDA).

### **Promoting information sharing among various ICT sectors**

The HKWDC organized the 3G Developer Forum in March 2004 to foster the partnership between the wireless system developers, the network operators and the equipment suppliers. The HKWDC also organized overseas and Mainland study missions, such as the ICT Mission to South Korea in September 2004 and the China-HK SP Collaboration Forum in October 2004, to promote cooperation between local companies and their counterparts outside Hong Kong. The HKWDC has also entered into cooperation agreements with its counterparts in Canada, Australia and South Korea.

### **Improvement in interoperability and technical standards**

The HKWDC has launched two system and service development platforms that support Short Message Service (SMS), Wireless Application Protocol (WAP) and Multimedia Messaging Service (MMS) technologies. These facilities enable the industry players to lower their development costs and shorten the time to market of their products and solutions. So far, more than 20 product suites have completed testing using the facilities.

### **Forging industry-wide collaboration for the creation of a branding effect**

The WTIA and the HKPC are making preparations for the first Hong Kong Wireless Technology Excellence Award (HKWTEA) in 2005. This will give recognition to outstanding and innovative wireless applications developed locally and help to promote Hong Kong's best-in-class wireless applications overseas.

Encourage development of innovative service models

The WTIA and the HKWDC launched the Cyberport 3G Project to provide a 3G enabling environment to support the development of 3G contents and application systems and will focus on the research and testing of various service and business models for different user segments.