GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENT::MEDIA STATEMENT ON SINGTEL WINNING PROVISIONAL AWARD FOR 5G

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Attachments

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Media Statement on Singtel winning provisional award for 5G

Singtel Group CEO Ms Chua Sock Koong said, “We are excited to win this provisional award at this pivotal time when consumer lifestyles are getting more digital and businesses are racing to be first movers in transforming their operations with digital technology. Having led in 3G and 4G technology, we intend to innovate further in the 5G space to offer the best experience and most transformational services and solutions to our consumers, public services and business customers. In view of COVID-19’s impact on the economy, we see this as a significant investment in the future – one that will create sustainable economic and social value as industries and business models transform, unlocking new careers and skills in the process.

We have always practiced vendor diversity and will be looking to work with vendors who best meet our key considerations of technology, security, resilience and commercial value.”

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Media Statement

EMBARGOED TILL 6.30PM, 29 APR 2020

Singapore Forges Ahead with Nationwide 5G Rollout

IMDA Selects Bids from Singtel and StarHub-M1 Joint Venture as Winning Proposals

SINGAPORE – 29 APR, 2020: The Infocomm Media Development Authority (**IMDA**) today announced Singtel Mobile Singapore Pte Ltd (**Singtel**) and the Joint-Venture Consortium (**JVCo**[1]) formed by StarHub Mobile Pte Ltd (**StarHub**) and M1 Limited (**M1**) as the winners of its 5G Call for Proposal (**CFP**).

Singtel and JVCo will be allocated radio frequency spectrum[2] to deploy nationwide 5G networks. Other mobile operators can access these network services through a wholesale arrangement. Additionally, IMDA will allocate mmWave spectrum to mobile network operators to deploy localised high-capacity 5G hotspots. With this, M1, StarHub, Singtel, TPG Telecom and mobile virtual network operators would be able to offer retail 5G services to end users.

Mr S Iswaran, Minister for Communications and Information, said: "Singapore is forging ahead with our vision to have a world-class, secure and resilient 5G infrastructure that will be the backbone of our digital economy. By 2025, Singapore will have two nationwide networks with full-fledged 5G capabilities that will spur innovation and create exciting opportunities. Amid today's COVID-19 challenges, the investments in Singapore's 5G infrastructure underscore long-term business confidence in our economy, and will ready us for the eventual recovery to build a thriving digital future for our people, businesses and industries."

5G to secure Singapore's competitive edge and drive transformation

The winners will roll out 5G Standalone (SA) networks from January 2021, keeping pace with first-mover cities in other countries. The winners will be required to provide coverage for at least half of Singapore by end-2022, scaling up to nationwide coverage by end 2025.

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[1] JVCo will deploy and own key parts of the 5G network that will be leased to M1 and StarHub. M1 and Starhub will continue to operate separately and provide retail services to their customers.

[2] SingTel and JVCo will be assigned 100MHz of 3.5GHz spectrum each. SingTel, StarHub and M1 will also be assigned 800MHz of mmWave spectrum each.

Both winners will be given Provisional Awards, pending their completion of regulatory processes, such as selection of spectrum lots and confirmation of technical and legal matters. IMDA will issue 5G licences to the respective winners once they have completed these processes. Winners can start their 5G network deployments thereafter.

Mr Tan Kiat How, Chief Executive, IMDA, said, "The on-going COVID-19 situation underscores the criticality of a robust digital infrastructure and the importance of timely investments to meet our national connectivity needs. The 5G award is a major milestone. We received three compelling proposals that met and in some cases, exceeded our requirements. The winners were selected based on a comprehensive assessment of how their proposals would deliver the best outcomes for businesses and consumers in Singapore. Beyond a connectivity infrastructure, we believe that 5G networks will spur innovation, create exciting business and job opportunities, and position Singapore as a leading digital economy."

- **Nationwide SA networks will have the full suite of 5G capabilities**
  The winners will deploy SA networks that can deliver full-fledged 5G capabilities, such as network slicing, ultra-reliable and low latency communications, and massive machine type communications. The two nationwide 5G networks will also be supplemented by localised mmWave deployments that provide high capacity 5G hotspots. Businesses and consumers will benefit from faster network speeds among other exciting applications.

- **Secure and resilient 5G networks**
  IMDA has put in place comprehensive security and resilience requirements for the 5G network operators. For example, in partnership with network operators, IMDA will establish a 5G Security Testbed Programme for technology exploration and to better protect us against 5G network cyber threats and vulnerability. While mobile operators' choice of vendors is a commercial decision, they are subject to the commitments made in the 5G CFP and must satisfy IMDA's resilience and cybersecurity requirements.

- **5G innovation ecosystem will grow and benefit enterprises and consumers**
  The 5G infrastructure will support a vibrant innovation ecosystem to drive business transformation and deliver new mobile experiences for everyone. IMDA and the National Research Foundation had earlier set aside $40 million to support 5G trials in strategic sectors such as maritime, aviation, smart estates, consumer applications, Industry 4.0 and Government applications. The trials are progressing well and IMDA

will share more details later. Consumers can also look forward to faster speeds and exciting applications such as AR/VR learning and cloud gaming.

- **5G networks will add vibrancy to competitive mobile landscape**
  Consumers and businesses can expect competitive prices, innovative and good quality services. To promote retail competition, the winners will be required to provide 5G wholesale services to other mobile operators, adding vibrancy to the competitive mobile landscape.

Preparing a pipeline of talent

IMDA will partner the industry to nurture a pool of ICT manpower to take up new job roles in the 5G ecosystem such as network engineering and application development. IMDA's Skills Framework for ICT professionals has been updated with the competencies needed for 5G job roles. IMDA is in the process of identifying 5G training and courses for interested applicants. More details of these manpower efforts will be released in due course.

About Infocomm Media Development Authority (IMDA)

The Infocomm Media Development Authority (IMDA) leads Singapore's digital transformation with infocomm media. To do this, IMDA will develop a dynamic digital economy and a cohesive digital society, driven by an exceptional infocomm media (ICM) ecosystem – by developing talent, strengthening business capabilities, and enhancing Singapore's ICM infrastructure. IMDA also regulates the telecommunications and media sectors to safeguard consumer interests while fostering a pro-business environment, and enhances Singapore's data protection regime through the Personal Data Protection Commission. For more news and information, visit www.imda.gov.sg or follow IMDA on Facebook IMDAsg and Twitter @IMDAsg.

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