

Hong Kong (country regulation overview)

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Abstracts

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The Hong Kong telecoms market is advanced in terms of the maturity of its market liberalization, its technology sophistication, and its political and socio-economic ties with mainland China (particularly around the harmonization of technical standards and spectrum planning). Competition is highly developed, with multiple fixed and mobile networks. Hong Kong's broadband penetration rate is among the highest in the world, and the country is also a world leader in the deployment of FTTH technologies. As of February 2010 its FTTH/FTTB household penetration rate was around 33%.

The regulator is still active in promoting competition. The regulator in Hong Kong, the Office of the Telecommunications Authority (OFTA), held auctions of 2.6GHz spectrum in 2009, and the operators who were granted licenses plan to roll out LTE networks. On 19 October 2010, CSL announced that it had completed the construction of a dual-cell HSPA+/LTE network (2.6GHz LTE in selected heavy-traffic districts), and commercial services are now waiting for compatible devices. The date of launching commercial services has not yet been announced by CSL. The introduction of LTE-based services will promote competition in the mobile market and enable service providers to launch innovative mobile broadband services.

OFTA has also streamlined the public non-exclusive telecoms services (PNETS) and services-based operator (SBO) licensing regimes to promote fixed–mobile convergence. In addition, OFTA is reviewing its local access charge (LAC) regime.

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