

Successful conclusion of auction of 5G spectrum in 3.5 GHz band

The Office of the Communications Authority (OFCA) announced today (October 14) that a total of 200 MHz of spectrum in the 3.5 GHz band was successfully auctioned off to four mobile network operators at a total of spectrum utilisation fees (SUFs) of \$1.006 billion.

"Four bidders, namely China Mobile Hong Kong Company Limited (CMHK), Hong Kong Telecommunications (HKT) Limited (HKT), Hutchison Telephone Company Limited (HTCL) and SmarTone Mobile Communications Limited (SmarTone) took part in the 3.5 GHz band auction. The auction came to a satisfactory conclusion after completion of the quantity phase and the assignment phase today," a spokesman for OFCA said.

The results of the auction are listed in the table below:

Frequency Block	Frequency Range	Provisional Successful Bidder	SUF Payable
A1 – A6	3400 – 3460 MHz	CMHK	\$300 million
A7 – A11	3460 – 3510 MHz	HKT	\$252 million
A12 – A16	3510 – 3560 MHz	SmarTone	\$252 million
A17 – A20	3560 – 3600 MHz	HTCL	\$202 million

"The provisional successful bidders are required to pay the SUFs as specified in the table above and to submit performance bonds to guarantee compliance with the network and service rollout requirement by January 14, 2020. Further, they are required to collectively make contributions to a fund for a subsidy scheme to support the upgrade of existing Satellite Master Antenna Television systems by November 25, 2019. The assignment of the spectrum will take effect on April 1, 2020, and be valid for a period of 15 years," the spokesman for OFCA added.