



National Information & Communications Technology Authority

RESPONSE TO COMMENTS

TECHNICAL GUIDELINES FOR MOBILE WIMAX TECHNOLOGY

Issue: May, 2017

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

NICTA issued six (6) regulatory instruments including guidelines, technical standards and specifications for public consultation to enable participation from industry to provide inputs and comments to these instruments.

The objective of the public consultation was to seek professional interpretations and commentaries from the industry to aid in developing a comprehensive instrument that incorporates both the views of the industry and the regulator - NICTA.

Among the six regulatory instruments, Technical Guidelines on Mobile WiMAX Technology was one instrument published also to pursue stakeholders or individual views about this mobile technology.

The commentaries to the mobile WiMAX guideline document were acknowledged and the responses summarized below accordingly.

Purpose of this document

This paper was developed to further provide constructive feedbacks to those commentaries received from the stakeholders or individuals and as such elucidate NICTA's standpoints in regard to these comments.

Respondents

There were only two respondents who provided commentaries and inputs to the mobile WiMAX technology standard and include:

1. Digicel PNG
2. Cambium Networks

Summary of Response to comments

The comments received from the two respondents suggest that the mobile WiMAX technology itself is winding down and has since lost its market value as a result of advancement of new emerging technologies in the ICT industry.

The comments further suggest that existing service providers of WiMAX technology should device migration plans to migrate to newer mobile platforms such as 4G LTE and make available spectrum resources to cater for the deployment of its new applications and services. In order for Papua New Guineans to keep abreast with latest wireless technologies for both mobile and fixed wireless broadband, it is crucial for existing operators to do migration of their existing platforms.

In response to the comments, NICTA acknowledges that the mobile WiMAX technology itself is "dead" and has been superseded with latest developments in mobile technologies. However, in Papua New Guinea, there are still existing WiMAX service providers who are utilizing the WiMAX service for backhaul links for business and/or individual purposes therefore, this technical standard is drafted to assist these providers to ensure that the WiMAX service provided complies with the applicable standards stipulated in the document.

Hence, NICTA, in its capacity as the Converged ICT regulator and in accordance with its functions to protect the network and its users, will retain the technical standard and enforce it for compliance purposes.

Migration to newer technologies has nothing to do with NICTA, as it is purely a commercial decision which has to be made entirely by the existing WiMAX operator. NICTA may only provide advice on regulatory matters.

NICTA is developing a new technical standard that will cover the International Mobile Telecommunications (IMT) services including the 4th Generation of networks and its services and applications.