

By post and by email at 5g_consult@cedb.gov.hk

31 March 2023

Division 8
Commerce and Economic Development Bureau
21/F, West Wing, Central Government Offices
2 Tim Mei Avenue, Tamar
Hong Kong

Dear Sir/Madam

**Views from The Hong Kong Institution of Engineers
Regarding Proposal to Strengthen the Fifth Generation Mobile (“5G”)
Infrastructure by Ensuring Availability of Space in and Access to
Specified New Buildings for Installation of Mobile Communications Facilities**

On behalf of the Institution, I am pleased to present to you our views and suggestions as set out in the enclosure for your consideration on the captioned subject.

The Institution welcomes the opportunity to work with the Government and offer our expertise and experience on the area of concern if and when it is needed.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely



Davis WONG (Mr)
Director

Enc

CKH/DW/SS

Enclosure

**Views from The Hong Kong Institution of Engineers
Regarding Proposal to Strengthen the Fifth Generation Mobile (“5G”)
Infrastructure by Ensuring Availability of Space in and Access to
Specified New Buildings for Installation of Mobile Communications Facilities**

The Hong Kong Institution of Engineers (“HKIE”) is in support of the captioned proposal in principle which is to strengthen 5G infrastructure and ensure access right of mobile network operators (“MNOs”) in new buildings, particularly for the benefits it will bring to the development of smart city as well as the engineering and IT sectors. As regards the proposal, the HKIE would like to offer the following suggestions for consideration of the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau.

2. In developing Hong Kong into a smart city, it is imperative to speed up the adoption of 5G. It is therefore necessary to facilitate access by MNOs to land/buildings for placing their radiocommunications installations. The HKIE noted the initiatives put forward in this proposal apply only to private new buildings, yet a vast majority of 5G applications and users are concentrated in developed areas where there is a high household subscription to mobile communication services rather than fixed-line telephone services, thus there would be a need for accessing existing land and buildings to meet the service demand. It is noted that, even though a substantial portion of 5G use cases relate to the indoors (e.g. healthcare and education) and thus more cell sites serving indoor users are called for, the proposals make space provisions for the installation of cell sites serving outdoor (i.e. mobile) users only. It is also noted that premises that are not privately owned such as government buildings and public infrastructures are not covered in the proposal.

3. To this end, the HKIE recommends revisiting the scope of the proposal and working out a roadmap to address the above limitations. As a route, the proposal may include specifications to facilitate major retrofitting works relevant to 5G installations.

4. To support smart city development in Hong Kong, the use of 5G technology in public facilities, particularly like hospitals can drive innovative medical applications. To ensure reliable performance, the HKIE suggests that the implementation of 5G in hospitals should be verified by professional engineers in the biomedical or electronics discipline.

5. On a separate note, the HKIE noted the authority’s proposal to exempt the requirement for case-by-case waiver application from MNO for the provision of mobile communications services in new private residential or non-commercial buildings. To this end, The HKIE recommends revisiting the scope of the proposal and working out a roadmap to address the existing buildings. As a route, the proposal may include specifications to facilitate major retrofitting works relevant to 5G installations in order to accelerate the expansion of 5G coverage and adoption.

6. Moreover, the installation of MCFs requires the provision of fibre backhaul from fixed network operators (“FNOs”) as well as electricity from power companies. The HKIE suggests that FNOs and other public service providers as necessarily appointed by MNOs to facilitate the installation of MCFs should also be granted the same access rights.