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3 Hong Kong and Huawei reach a significant 4.5G milestone and herald the 5G era by activating 5CC CA network technology to coincide with launch of the Samsung Galaxy S9 and S9+

Achievement makes 3 Hong Kong the only local operator to provide 4.5G service via five different bands of spectrum

- Re-farming of 2100MHz spectrum band completes, enhancing 4.5G network capacity and coverage and making 3 Hong Kong the only local operator to provide 4.5G service simultaneously via five different bands of spectrum
- Efficiency improved by deploying advanced technologies to aggregate different bands of spectrum
- 3 Hong Kong poised to activate 5CC CA network technology this month to coincide with launch of the Samsung Galaxy S9 and S9+, the first smartphones to support 5CC
- Development framework planned in preparation for the 5G era

Hong Kong, 8 March 2018 - 3 Hong Kong, the mobile arm of Hutchison Telecommunications Hong Kong Holdings Limited (HTHKH; stock code: 215) and Huawei today announced that re-farming of the 2100MHz band of spectrum has completed to facilitate provision of 4.5G service. This makes 3 Hong Kong the only local operator to provide 4.5G service simultaneously across five different bands of spectrum. The two companies also announced activation of the five components of carrier aggregation (5CC CA) technology this month to coincide with launch of the Samsung Galaxy S9 and S9+, the first handsets to support 5CC CA technology. This advanced cross-spectrum approach amounts to a significant milestone in 4.5G technology and heralds the next phase of the 5G era.

Re-farming 2100MHz spectrum band enhances 4.5G capacity and coverage

3 Hong Kong is committed to re-farming spectrum to maximise spectrum efficiency. Re-farming of the 2100MHz band was completed recently to enhance 4.5G network capacity and coverage. This helps satisfy ever-increasing demand for data service. 3 Hong Kong is now the only local operator to provide 4.5G service via spectrum across the 900MHz, 1800MHz, 2100MHz, 2300MHz and 2600MHz bands.

5CC CA technology activated this month to coincide with launch of the first handset to support 5CC

According to a recent report*, CA was certified in 42% of all certified devices, representing a significant increase compared with just 7% in 2016. Certification of CA technology is expected to be the basic specification for mobile devices henceforth.

Following completion of re-farming of the 2100MHz spectrum band, 3 Hong Kong is ready to deploy 5CC CA technology this month to coincide with launch of the Samsung Galaxy S9 and S9+, the first smartphones to support 5CC CA technology. The rich functionality of these handsets includes Super Slow-mo video shooting, low-light camera and AR Emoji features.

In fact, 3 Hong Kong collaborated with Huawei in deployment of 5CC technology last year. In order to provide customers with even smoother service, network technologies such as 4x4 MIMO (Multi-Input Multi-Output), Massive MIMO and 256QAM (Quadrature Amplitude Modulation) were deployed, while five different bands of spectrum were aggregated to boost end-user throughput and ensure an ultra-fast and stable mobile broadband service experience.

Planned development of 5G framework heralds the 5G era

HCHK Executive Director and CEO Cliff Woo Chiu-man said: "3 Hong Kong is committed to deployment of advanced technologies. Following completion of an NB-IoT network extending throughout Hong Kong last quarter, we activated all bands of spectrum to provide 4.5G service this quarter, coupled with soon-to-be-activated 5CC CA technology - all to maximise spectrum efficiency."

He added: "We are also working on a 5G development framework, while conducting research and trials in respect of various technology solutions. We aim to provide 5G service promptly, as soon as spectrum allocation and technology specification become available."

Peter Zhou, Chief Marketing Officer of Huawei Wireless Network Product Line, said: "Huawei will continue to co-operate with 3 Hong Kong to utilise existing spectrum resource in order to provide mobile users with the best possible user experience. In 2018, Huawei launched the CloudAIR2.0 solution, embracing advanced technologies such as spectrum sharing and uplink/downlink (UL/DL) decoupling. This maximised efficiency for operators' valuable spectrum resources to enhance network capacity and coverage. It also ensures continuous evolution of 4G network technology and provides a close-to-5G user experience. Huawei is delighted to work with 3 Hong Kong to develop quality networking and a superior end-user experience."

**The 2017 Mobile Device Trends Report from the Global Certification Forum Ltd.*

About 3 Hong Kong

3 Hong Kong is a leading mobile communications service provider and the only local operator to own blocks of spectrum across the 900MHz, 1800MHz, 2100MHz, 2300MHz and 2600MHz bands. 3 Hong Kong offers cutting-edge data, voice and roaming services under the "3" brand via far-reaching advanced 4G LTE, 3G and 2G networks. 3 Hong Kong also works with renowned partners to offer a wealth of innovative mobile devices and value-added services, while providing high-speed Wi-Fi at 3 Hong Kong's hotspots to serve Hong Kong's major areas. 3 Hong Kong is the mobile division of Hutchison Telecommunications Hong Kong Holdings Limited (stock code: 215), a group member of CK Hutchison Holdings (stock code: 1).

For more information on 3 Hong Kong, please visit www.three.com.hk.

For more information on HCHK, visit www.hchk.com.

About Huawei

Huawei is a leading global information and communications technology (ICT) solutions provider. Our aim is to enrich life and improve efficiency through a better connected world, acting as a responsible corporate citizen, innovative enabler for the information society, and collaborative contributor to the industry. Driven by customer-centric innovation and open partnerships, Huawei has established an end-to-end ICT solutions portfolio that gives customers competitive advantages in telecom and enterprise networks, devices and cloud computing. Huawei's 180,000 employees worldwide are committed to creating maximum value for telecom operators, enterprises and consumers. Our innovative ICT solutions, products and services are used in more than 170 countries and regions, serving over one-third of the world's population. Founded in 1987, Huawei is a private company fully owned by its employees.

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About Samsung Electronics Co., Ltd.

Samsung inspires the world and shapes the future with transformative ideas and technologies. The company is redefining the worlds of TVs, smartphones, wearable devices, tablets, digital appliances, network systems, and memory, system LSI, foundry and LED solutions. For the latest news, please visit the Samsung Newsroom at <http://news.samsung.com>.

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