

SingTel joins consortium to build South-east Asia Japan cable system

SINGAPORE – Major telco Singapore Telecommunications (SingTel) has signed an agreement to join a consortium of telecommunications carriers to build and operate the new South-east Asia Japan Cable system (SJC). The new international submarine cable system is said to have the highest capacity in the world.

The cable system, expected to be operational by the second quarter of 2012, is estimated to

cost US\$400 million and spans 8,300km, initially linking Singapore, Indonesia, the Philippines, Hong Kong and Japan.

The six-fibre-pair high-capacity submarine cable system has a design capacity of 17Tbps and can be upgraded to 23Tbps, making it the highest-capacity system ever to be built.

Said Mark Chong, SingTel's executive vice-president for Networks: "The South-east Asia

Japan cable network will cater to the strong demand for data, e-commerce, Web applications and Internet traffic in high-growth countries in Asia. It sets a new benchmark for international connectivity, with its high-capacity and resilient transmission infrastructure.

"It will also serve Singapore well when the government rolls out the National Broadband Network in 2012."

He added that the SJC connects Singapore to other cable systems in Asia, will provide access to other parts of the region and serve as an important cable diversity route.

"SJC is designed to avoid outage-prone areas. It will also be linked to the new Unity cable network, thus enhancing SingTel's ability to offer superior connectivity between Asia and the US," he said.

SingTel is a founding member of the Unity cable network, which is expected to be ready in the middle of this year.

The other members of the SJC consortium are Globe Telecom, Google, KDDI, Network i2i, Reliance Globalcom, Telemedia Pacific and Telekomunikasi Indonesia International. The consortium may be expanded to include other carriers in the future.

3D TV technologies will have major effects on film and TV production sector

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human beings.

The ITU said these kinds of highly advanced systems are technically some 15-20 years away. "No one is able to predict accurately the time scales for the three phases," Wood added, "because they depend on R&D, which is not yet done."

He further explained: "There are many factors to consider, but a rough estimate might be 10 years between the



industry to move from one generation to the next, a compelling push or pull factor also would have to occur. Wood gave an example: "If large 'auto-stereoscopic' multi-view displays without limits on resolution, and head positioning can be made that can be viewed without any glasses, this will be very attractive for viewers — probably they would 'sell themselves on sight'.

"They have to be affordable too, of course.

"But one of the

He added: "It is also a better backwards-compatible option for 2D being more like a Sum and Difference system than a Left and Right system.

"However, just like the transition from MPEG 2 to MPEG 4, it is going to need set-up-box (STB) hardware changes to incorporate the new codec format. For a quick-start in 3D the Left + Right option — whether full-resolution or reduced resolution, it will be the easy choice as it can be achieved with minor software changes to the box. If it is full-res polarising display option into the display, then there may be

ABU appoints new secretary-general



Javad Mottaghi

KUALA LUMPUR – Javad Mottaghi will be the next Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union (ABU) secretary-general. Mottaghi. He is currently director of the Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD), and will succeed David Astley, who has been ABU's secretary-general since July 2002.

An Iranian, Mottaghi has headed the AIBD since August 1998. He also worked at Iran's national broadcaster, Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB), in various capacities from 1978 to 1996, notably in the fields of sports, production and news.

Mottaghi was a member of the ABU Administrative Council for three years, chairman of the ABU Sports Group, the ABU Olympic Sub-Group, the World Football Cup Sub-Group and the Asian Games Sub-Group, as well as a member of the negotiating team for TV Rights for the World Football Cup, Asian Games and the Olympics for several years.

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