



Hutchison bids in NZ spectrum auction

Hutchison Telecommunications (NZ) Limited, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Hutchison Telecommunications (Australia) Limited (Hutchison) has commenced bidding in the current New Zealand auction of spectrum management rights and licences, which cover the 1800 Mega Hertz and 2 Giga Hertz bands.

Hutchison Managing Director, Mr Barry Roberts-Thomson said: "The New Zealand auction presents an attractive opportunity for Hutchison to expand its planned 1800 Mega Hertz data network, creating a trans-Tasman wirefree business serving the data needs of Australian and New Zealand customers.

"Given the close business ties between our two nations, we are interested in exploring the possibility of expanding our service to New Zealand's 3.8 million¹ citizens – a market similar in size to Sydney."

In Australia, Hutchison is developing a high-speed data network using the 1800 Mega Hertz licences it purchased in Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Adelaide and Perth. Hutchison secured these licences in March this year for a total of A\$671 million or a weighted average price of A\$0.97 per head of population per Mega Hertz.

"The level of current bidding for similar spectrum in New Zealand presents an opportunity for Hutchison to consider expansion into this market," Mr Roberts-Thomson said.

At the conclusion of Round 45, high bids for the 1800 Mega Hertz paired spectrum amounted to an average price of A\$0.00933 per head of population per Mega Hertz²

Hutchison is currently involved in detailed discussions with vendors for the development of its wirefree data network. The recent ITU decision to include the 1800 Mega Hertz band in the 3G standard has had an impact on these discussions, enabling Hutchison to explore the possibility of providing 3G services over its 1800 Mega Hertz network.

Ends

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further information

New Zealand and the eastern states of Australia enjoy close business, tourist and family ties.

- 33% of overseas arrivals in New Zealand are from Australia³
- Australia is both New Zealand's largest export destination and import source⁴
- New Zealand is Australia's third largest market for exports⁵

Orange products and services are provided in Australia by Hutchison Telecommunications (Australia) Limited.

¹ June 2000 estimate, Statistics New Zealand

² based on a conversion rate of A\$/NZ\$ 1.286

³ source: Statistics New Zealand

⁴ source: Austrade

⁵ source: Austrade