

NCC, telecoms discuss 4G options

SERVICE CAPACITY INCREASE: : Chunghwa Telecom said that if it can secure the bandwidth at the 2.6GHz frequency band, it would address reception problems in remote areas

By Shelley Shan / Staff reporter

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Five telecom carriers qualified to bid on the spectrum in the 2.5 gigahertz (GHz) and 2.6GHz frequency band yesterday met with the seven commissioners of the National Communications Commission (NCC), with each demonstrating confidence on garnering enough bandwidth to expand their capacity to offer 4G telecom services.

The five carriers are Taiwan Star Telecom, Chunghwa Telecom (CHT), Taiwan Mobile, Asia-Pacific Telecom and Far Eastone Telecommunications (FET).

The telecom companies faced various questions, from the funding of their operations to their plans to increase infrastructure in the nation's remote areas and along the routes of the Taiwan Railways Administration and Taiwan High Speed Rail Corp.

CHT president Shih Mu-piao (石木標) said the company planned to increase its service capacity if it is successful in securing the bandwidth at the 2.6GHz frequency band, adding that it would use the bandwidth to address poor reception in remote areas.

Shih said that the company would spend at least six months building facilities to use the acquired bandwidth.

He also commented on the commission's proposed legislation, in which the commission decided to follow the requirements in the Budget Act (預算法) and draft political party act, which is set to govern investment from the government, political parties and the military, and would not list that requirement in media regulations anymore.

"The company's multimedia-on-demand system would finally be able to compete with cable operators at the same level," he said.

FET chairman Douglas Hsu (徐旭東) said the company used a new financial analytical model to calculate return on the investment, which focuses on 4G service.

Hsu refused to comment on whether the policy of charging consumers with a fixed price for unlimited mobile internet access should be eliminated. He said that Taiwan is capable

of being more advanced than other nations in the development of 4G service because of the policy, but there needs to be discipline to ensure resources can be fairly shared among users.

Taiwan Mobile president James Cheng (鄭俊卿) said the company would do everything it can to acquire more bandwidth.

Asia-Pacific Telecom chairman Lu Fang-ming (呂芳銘) said it would try to keep its market share at 10 percent with the acquisition of the bandwidth.

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