

3 Hong Kong and Huawei usher in a new era of

FDD-TDD LTE-A network in Hong Kong

Creating an outstanding integrated mobile communications experience with LTE-A, enabled by advanced carrier aggregation technology and the new services made available

- 3 Hong Kong and Huawei ushered in a new era of FDD-TDD LTE-A network in Hong Kong with Huawei One LTE Solution and terminals powered Qualcomm® Snapdragon™ X12 LTE modems.
- 3 Hong Kong's technological breakthrough enables customers to enjoy remarkable telecoms services, in line with 3 Hong Kong's "Better at 3" philosophy of continuous improvement.
- 3 Hong Kong plans to launch FDD-TDD 2CC LTE-A network in early 2016, followed by 3CC LTE-A in the second half of 2016.

Hong Kong, 13 July 2015 - 3 Hong Kong, the mobile communications division of Hutchison Telecom Hong Kong Holdings (HTHKH, stock code: 215), and Huawei today announced the successful demonstration of an end-to-end FDD and TDD LTE-A commercial network in Hong Kong using carrier aggregation (CA) technology and terminals powered by Qualcomm® Snapdragon™ X12 LTE modems¹. The two companies also demonstrated applications of the new-generation FDD and TDD combined network in different markets, ushering in a new era of FDD-TDD LTE-A network in Hong Kong.

3 Hong Kong achieves technological breakthrough

In the FDD-TDD integrated network demonstration, 3 Hong Kong used Huawei One LTE Solution to aggregate an FDD carrier (specifically, paired spectrum in either the 1800 MHz or 2600 MHz band) with TDD 2300 MHz spectrum via CA technology, creating an LTE-A network with two component carriers (2CC). It is the first time a mobile operator, a telecoms solutions provider and a chipset manufacturer have collaborated on an end-to-end FDD-TDD LTE-A commercial network in Hong Kong. They have also created the world's first FDD-TDD CA commercial network on IP radio access network (RAN) architecture.

The technological breakthrough shows that 3 Hong Kong can support FDD and TDD standards within intra-band or inter-band carriers across different spectrums. The converged network will increase network speed and provide remarkable telecoms services for 3 Hong Kong users. The initiative is in line with 3 Hong Kong's "Better at 3" philosophy of continuous improvement.

CA technology combines two or more intra-band or inter-band carriers, thereby providing wider bandwidth to deliver the higher data transmission rate required for the development of the Internet of Things.

Demonstrating Hong Kong's first end-to-end FDD and TDD LTE-A commercial network at today's press conference, 3 Hong Kong, Huawei and Qualcomm Technologies showed how an integrated FDD-TDD network can support innovative applications in the Internet of Things era.

Planned 2016 deployment for 3CC FDD-TDD LTE-A dual-mode network

3 Hong Kong is currently the only local cellular operator that possesses 900, 1800, 2100, 2300 and 2600 MHz

spectrums. It has used carrier aggregation to combine carriers in the FDD 1800 MHz and 2600 MHz paired spectrum. 3 Hong Kong is also building a TDD network, which it plans to launch later this year.

The operator is committed to integrating LTE FDD and TDD networks. The devices that can support 2CC FDD and TDD LTE-A standards will be available early next year and 3 Hong Kong is expected to launch the respective network around that time. Additionally, 3 Hong Kong is in the deployment phase of 3CC CA-capable LTE-A networks, which it aims to make available for commercial launch in the second half of next year.

Peter Wong, Chief Executive Officer and Group Managing Director of HTHKH, said: "CA technology enables us to fully utilise valuable spectrum resources and devise long-term plans on network deployment so that we can continue to improve the outstanding data services we offer our customers. 3 Hong Kong plans to re-farm the 900 and 2100 MHz spectrums for our LTE network in the near future, and we remain committed to establishing a 5CC LTE-A network."

Mr Wong added: "3 Hong Kong has combined the strengths of mobile, fixed and Wi-Fi networks. As the largest Wi-Fi service provider in Hong Kong², our Wi-Fi network has already adopted the advanced 802.11ac standard, providing speeds up to 1.3 Gbps. In addition to continuous network development, we are striving to provide customers with an all-round mobile communication experience with ever smoother and more stable LTE service. We are committed to integrating high-quality content and customer service based on our 'Making Better' vision of ongoing improvement."

Huawei One LTE Solution

Huawei One LTE Solution supports different standards and spectrums and enables smooth network evolution to maximise operators' return on investment through the SingleRAN hardware platform. Enabled by FDD and TDD CA technology, the One LTE solution can effectively integrate scattered spectrums, maximise spectral efficiency, and improve the user experience.

"FDD LTE and TDD LTE convergence has become an irreversible trend," said Ryan Ding, President of Products & Solutions at Huawei. "With the rapid development of mobile Internet services, the available spectrum is becoming increasingly scarce. Operators are eager to discover how they can use the LTE FDD and TDD spectrums to get the best from their resources. LTE TDD can easily resolve capacity issues due to its rich spectrum resources and technological advantages in multiple-antenna systems and other breakthroughs. FDD and TDD networks complement each other and their integration significantly improves both network capacity and coverage. Huawei will continue to work closely with 3 Hong Kong to provide a better user experience through its advanced solutions."

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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 “3HKWiFiService” 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 HTHKH, visit www.hthkh.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 170,000 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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2. Based on a review of hotspot numbers featured on the official websites of six Wi-Fi service providers in Hong Kong as at 14:00 on 25 May 2015.