

Information Sheet**Proposed Gazetting under the Foreshore and Sea-bed (Reclamations) Ordinance (Cap. 127)****Asia Link Cable – Hong Kong Bundle (“ALC-HK Cable Bundle”)
from Chung Hom Kok to the Eastern Boundary
of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region****1. Application**

China Telecom Global Limited (“CTG”) has applied to the Government for the grant of Licence for the installation of the proposed Asia Link Cable – Hong Kong Bundle (“ALC-HK Cable Bundle”). Lands Department is responsible for processing the Licence and arranging the gazettal under the Foreshore and Sea-bed (Reclamations) Ordinance (Cap.127) (“the Ordinance”). Departmental circulation for seeking comments from the relevant Government departments on the gazettal of the project has been conducted. The proposal is now submitted for Members’ comments.

2. Purposes

The Asia Link Cable System (“ALC”) is a proposed submarine optical fibre telecommunications cable providing additional hyper-capacity within Asia and boosting resiliency for international traffic. ALC will connect Hong Kong and Singapore as its trunk, with branches into the Philippines, Malaysia, Vietnam, Brunei and Hainan in China. It will bring greater connection capacity to transform industries, unlock more opportunities for innovation, further enhance the digital experience of Southeast Asian consumers, and support the growth ambitions of the region.

The ALC has a diameter of about 40mm and is about 6,021km in total length, of which 36.8km will be located within Hong Kong waters. It is planned to bundle the ALC Hong Kong segment (“ALC-HK”) with two other 44.2mm diameter cables to allow further capacity into Hong Kong in the future without laying additional cables. These cables collectively form the ALC-HK Cable Bundle with a diameter of 130mm. Buried below sea-bed, the ALC-HK Cable Bundle will be laid between the eastern boundary of Hong Kong waters and the landing beach at Chung Hom Kok, which is at the southern side of Hong Kong Island.

3. Review by Government Departments

A Project Profile has been submitted to Environmental Protection Department (EPD”) to apply for permission to apply directly for an Environmental Permit (EP”) under the Environmental Impact Assessment Ordinance. The EP has been issued by EPD on 26 March 2025.

Other Government departments including Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department, Drainage Services Department, Marine Department (“MD”), Civil Engineering and Development Department, Highways Department, Transport Department, Water Supplies Department and the Office of the Communications Authority have been consulted with the project details.

A Marine Traffic Impact Assessment (“MTIA”) was carried out by and MD have responded on 21 February 2025 that they have no further comment on the MTIA report.

4. Licence and Gazettal under the Ordinance

Lands Department has been processing the application for the licence for laying the proposed ALC-HK Cable Bundle. The proposed licence has been circulated among relevant Government departments. Departmental comments have been considered and have been addressed in the design and future cable laying works as appropriate.

5. Details of the Proposed ALC-HK Cable Bundle

a) Dimensions of the Proposed Submarine Cable Bundle

The overall diameter of the proposed submarine cable bundle is about 130 millimetres. Its total length is about 36.8 kilometres.

b) Method of Construction

The installation of ALC-HK Cable Bundle is from the sea-bed offshore at Chung Hom Kok to the eastern boundary of Hong Kong waters. Cable landing ducts with concrete surround of approximately 64 metres in length will be created from the High Water Mark of Chung Hom Kok for the cable bundle to be pulled through. Shore-end section of the cable bundle will be installed by divers and protected by articulated pipe. A cable-laying barge will be employed to simultaneously lay and bury the submarine cable bundle in a trench of about 0.5 metre in width at a target burial depth of about 5 metres below the sea-bed.

When crossing the existing gas pipeline of Hong Kong Electric Company Limited in the eastern waters, which is buried around 3.7 metres below sea-bed, the cable bundle will be laid by either the burial tool or divers at a depth possible/agreed with the facility owner over the top of the Gas Pipeline for a section of approximately 200 metres to avoid any interference. Additional cable protection by “URADUCT” will be employed for a section of about 100 metres. At crossing with existing or planned submarine cable along the route, the cable bundle will be buried subject to the as-built depth of the existing cables.

c) Period of Construction

It is anticipated that the overall installation works will take about four months to complete. The cable installation is tentatively scheduled to start in the third quarter of 2025 and expected to be completed in approximately 4 months.

6. Conclusion

Various technical aspects regarding the location of cable laying and landing point at Chung Hom Kok, as well as the design and construction of the Reclamation Scheme have been thoroughly studied, and the engineering, environmental and public safety aspects have also been examined to the satisfaction of respective Government departments.

As recommended by Lands Department, comments on the Reclamation Scheme shall be sought from the relevant District Councils. In addition, under Section 6 of the Ordinance, any person who considers that he has an interest, right or easement in or over the foreshore and seabed may, by notice in writing delivered to the Director of Lands before the expiration of two months from the date as shall be specified in the notice, object to the Reclamation Scheme.

Attachment

Figure 1 Layout Plan of the Proposed ALC-HK Cable Bundle

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May 2025