

# 24<sup>th</sup> Electronic Communications Forum – 23<sup>rd</sup> March, 2012

## Overview of events since December 2011 meeting

### December 2011

#### Key market indicators for electronic communications and post: Q1/2005 to Q3/2011

The MCA is hereby updating its series of Data Report Sheet ('DRS') publications with a report covering the period Q1 2005 to Q3 2011. The purpose of this publication is to inform the general public on the main trends and developments in Malta concerning electronic communications and post.

The report lists a number of indicators for the aforementioned areas, with data presented on a quarterly basis. Figures are preliminary and therefore subject to change. Data should therefore be interpreted with caution.

Data cut-off date: 15<sup>th</sup> December 2011.

Circular to operators re imposition of administrative fines - In accordance with the Malta Communications Authority Act [Cap. 418 of the Laws of Malta] [hereinafter referred to as 'Cap. 418'], the Malta Communications Authority [hereinafter 'the Authority'] may impose administrative fines if there is a breach of any of the laws, authorisation conditions or decisions however so described that the Authority enforces.

Decisions issued by the Authority imposing such fines may in turn be contested before the Communications Appeals Board ['Appeals Board'].

GO's Reference Unbundling Offer - The MCA published this decision notice on the Sub-loop unbundling (SLU) related aspects of GO's reference unbundling offer.

### January 2012

#### BeSmartOnline! – Future educators participate in seminar about internet safety -

During a seminar held yesterday at the University of Malta as part of the BeSmartOnline! programme, students reading for a degree in Education had the opportunity to participate in a discussion led by industry expert, Ms. Annie Mullins OBE, Global Head of Content Standards at Vodafone Group.

MCA's decision on applicable refund subsequent to the return of GO's set-top box - The MCA has published a decision regarding the applicable refund to GO TV subscribers following GO's letter on proposed modifications to the terms and conditions of TV subscriber contracts.

Number Portability Specification for Premium Rate Number - This document specifies those aspects of premium rate number portability ordering process that either:

- Involve exchanges between the operators; or
- Involve actions by one operator that affect other operators or the premium rate service provider.

Notice by the MCA re Fixed Radio Links - Vodafone has submitted an application for use of channels in the 11 GHz frequency band in order to provide fixed radio links.

Test and Trial Licensing Regime put to the test - The Malta Communications Authority (MCA) yesterday granted a licence to Aeromobile AS of Norway to use radio frequency spectrum and related radiocommunications apparatus to carry out tests on innovative electronic communications products in Malta. These radio frequencies will be used to conduct, land-based, installation and certification testing on board aircrafts that are being equipped with wireless systems used to provide in-flight mobile communications services. The aircraft on which the tests will take place will be housed in the facilities operated by SR Technics in Luqa. See also: Telecompaper site report: <http://www.telecompaper.com/news/malta-grants-licence-to-aeromobile-for-in-flight-services>

Strategic Plan Update for 2012 – 2014 - The Strategic Plan Update represents the MCA's strategic direction and factors in the market developments that are seen to have an impact on the MCA's strategic direction over the coming three years.

Broadband Internet Quality of Service Framework - Today broadband Internet has become an essential component of electronic communication services, with Malta enjoying multiple networks that can provide access to broadband connections through both fixed and mobile networks. As the take up of broadband services and the reliance on this service as a means of promoting social inclusion and competitiveness continues to grow, the performance of these networks has also become of significant importance.

Highlights and activities for Weeks 1 and 2 of 2012 - Publication of the MCA's newsletter outlining the main Highlights and Activities for Weeks 1 and 2 of 2012.

## February 2012

[MCA Annual Plan 2012](#) - This document represents the MCA's Annual Plan covering the period 2012. It focuses on the priority work-streams and related individual tasks that the MCA intends to undertake during 2012. The Annual Plan is reflective of the MCA's strategic plan update covering the period 2012 - 2014.

[Highlights and Activities for Weeks 3 and 4 of 2012](#) - MCA's newsletter outlining the main Highlights and Activities for Weeks 3 and 4 of 2012.

[Information to be included in subscriber contracts](#) - One of the main sources of protection afforded to end-users in the telecoms sector is the contract which includes the terms and conditions for the use of the service. In this respect, the Authority has published a consultation which intends to address the following:

- Provisions that are legally required to be included in contracts related to electronic communications service/s and ensure that these are conveyed in a clear manner;
- The form of such contracts;
- The means by which the contracts should be made available to consumers; and
- Any necessary additional transparency rules related to contracts and terms and conditions, for example their availability on web-sites or from outlets etc.

[Malta celebrates Safer Internet Day](#) - On 07 February 2012, together with the rest of Europe, Malta celebrated Safer Internet Day. This annual event is a European initiative, coordinated by Insafe, the European network of Awareness Centres that promote safe, responsible use of the Internet.

[MCA Decision on access to the public telephone network at a fixed location](#) - The MCA is today publishing the response to consultation and decision on access to the public telephone network at a fixed location in Malta, following the notification of the respective draft measures to the EU Commission in December 2011.

[Highlights and activities for Weeks 5 and 6](#) - Publication of the MCA's newsletter outlining the main Highlights and Activities for Weeks 5 and 6 of 2012.

[Must-carry obligations – designation of Obligations on Providers of Networks used for Television and Radio Distribution Services](#) - This decision implements the designation of obligations on providers of networks used for television and radio distribution services in line with the MCA guidelines published on 2nd December 2011.

[Highlights and Activities for Weeks 7 and 8](#) - MCA's newsletter outlining the main Highlights and Activities for Weeks 7 and 8 of 2012.

## **March 2012**

[GO plc submits to the MCA a funding claim for providing universal services during 2010](#) - The MCA received from GO plc an application for funding of unfair burden it claims to have experienced during 2010 in fulfilling its obligations as the operator designated to provide a number of universal service obligations on electronic communications services. These obligations include, the provision of access at a fixed location, directory enquiry services and directories, public payphones, specific measures for disabled users, reduced tariff options for users, and ensuring that users can control expenditure.

[Highlights and activities for Weeks 9 and 10 of 2012](#) - MCA's newsletter outlining the main Highlights and Activities for Weeks 9 and 10 of 2012.