

## ดันสเปซเทค ขึ้นระดับโลก

นายเอกชัย ภัคคุรงค์ หัวหน้าคณะผู้บริหาร ด้านกลยุทธ์องค์กร บมจ.ไทยคม เปิดเผยว่า ไทยคมได้วางเป้าหมาย เป็น ผู้ให้บริการเทคโนโลยีอวกาศ หรือ สเปซเทค คอมปะนี ระดับโลก ที่ให้บริการเทคโนโลยีอวกาศที่หลากหลาย โดยมีแผนยิงดาวเทียม ไทยคม 9เอ และ ไทยคม 9 ในปี 68 และ ไทยคม 10 ในปี 70 หลังประมูลได้สิทธิการใช้งานจากสำนักงาน กสทช. โดยดาวเทียมทั้ง ไทยคม 9 และไทยคม 10 ได้บริษัทผู้ผลิตและสร้างดาวเทียมหมดแล้ว ซึ่งเป็นดาวเทียมที่มีเทคโนโลยีล่าสุดที่สามารถส่งสัญญาณได้อย่างมีประสิทธิภาพ ปรับเปลี่ยนพื้นที่หรือปริมาณช่องสัญญาณในการให้บริการได้ โดยถูกกำหนดโดยซอฟต์แวร์ ซึ่งจะออกมาให้บริการใน 3 ปีข้างหน้า ส่วนไทยคม 11 อยู่ระหว่างการศึกษาวิจัย

“ที่ผ่านมาถึงปัจจุบัน ไทยคม ยิงดาวเทียมขึ้นสู่วงโคจรไปแล้ว 8 ดวง คือ ไทยคม 1-8 แต่มีที่ต้องปลดระวางไปแล้ว 4 ดวง เหลือ 4 ดวง”.

**NBTC PREPS SPECTRUM BID**  
NBTC plans to auction licences for three spectrum bands in Q1, 2025. **B5**

# NBTC preps spectrum bid for early next year

## Regulator concerned over auction's success

**KOMSAN TORTERMSASANA**

The National Broadcasting and Telecommunications Commission (NBTC) plans to auction licences for three spectrum bands in the first quarter 2025.

The spectrum bands are being used by state enterprise National Telecom (NT) and will expire in September next year.

NT has utilised the three bands — 850, 2100 and 2300 megahertz — under partnership agreements with the major mobile phone service operators.

However, the regulator is concerned as to whether the auction will be successful as there are now only two major operators in the market after the amalgamation of True Corporation and Total Access Communication (DTAC) into True Corporation, according to NBTC commissioner Sompop Purivigraipong, who is responsible for the telecom business sector.

State enterprises TOT and CAT Telecom were also merged into NT.

“Compared to the past auctions with three major operators and two smaller operators [TOT and CAT Telecom], the situation with only two major operators now is a concern for the planned auction.”

However, the NBTC hopes that the two major private operators will consider participating in the auction as the demand for bandwidth usage among consumers has increased month by month.

Mr Sompop said the NBTC has to carefully consider the draft auction details to ensure the auction would not add a burden to the winning bidders, or they might pass on the additional costs to consumers in the future.

“The reserve prices of the multi-band auction should be set at practical figures, regardless of the winning prices of the spectrum auctions in the past.”

The NBTC office is currently drafting the auction details, which are expected to be completed by the third quarter this year.

Mr Sompop said each of the three spectrum bands will be auctioned in the same multi-band auction.

Mr Sompop said the 2100MHz and 2300MHz ranges are the more attractive bands, compared with the 850MHz band, as they are “middle” bands that can be optimised for the operators’ expansion of network capacity.

The NBTC is also set to add other spectrum bands such as 3500MHz to the planned multi-band auction.

He said he personally thought 3500MHz is more attractive than the three bands as there is real demand for this band. It is targeted to be utilised to promote 5G private network for vertical industries.

Previously, AIS and True said they were prepared to consider the draft of the planned auction of the 850MHz, 2100MHz and 2300MHz bands. They are eager to ensure they have sufficient spectrum bands to serve customers and for the upcoming 6G development, although their existing spectrum portfolios are adequate for normal operations for the next two years.

Manat Manavutiveth, True Corporation’s chief executive, told the *Bangkok Post* that the company needs a clear auction roadmap of those three spectrum bands or even other bands, so that it will be able to effectively plan digital infrastructure management to serve the demand for data usage.

Mr Manat said local major operators faced financial burdens from the auctions of 4G and 5G licences in the past as the winning prices of those spectrum bands are higher than those in other countries.

In addition to high winning prices, telecom operators have also been obliged to invest to expand their network coverage, in line with the licensing conditions and competition.

AIS chief Somchai Lertsutiwong said operators have to explore all business opportunities to provide better service experience to customers.

For the planned reallocation of the three bands, Mr Somchai said there are three factors influencing AIS’s decision on whether or not it would participate.

The factors are the cost of acquiring the spectrum, the company’s plan to bolster operations and its plan to ensure a leading market position.

Mr Somchai said AIS’s existing bandwidth is sufficient to serve its operations for at least the next two years.