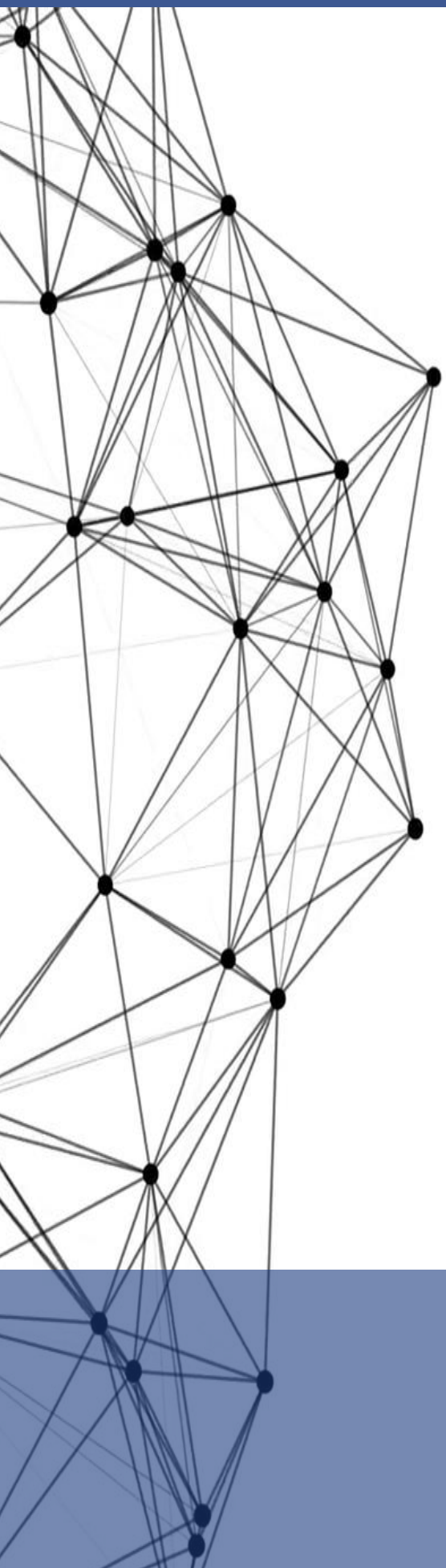


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New Bill [Introduced](#) Prepare Australia for Accessing US CLOUD Act

The Telecoms Legislation Amendment (International Production Orders) Bill has been introduced in the Australian Parliament which will amend the Telecoms (Interception and Access) Act 1979. The new bill will create a legislative framework to support international crime cooperation efforts by permitting Australian and American providers to respond to lawful orders from each country's security agencies for access to electronic evidence. Australian law enforcement could serve a domestic order for communications data and electronic information directly on US based companies. The bilateral relationship could be expanded to include future multilateral agreements. Govt officials say there will be "no trade-off of Australia's existing privacy and civil liberty protections to achieve this most welcome boost to our agencies' ability to keep Australians safe." An Australian Designated Authority (ADA) will be established to review international production orders for compliance.

Issues Paper for Future Directions of CDR [Released](#)

The Treasury has put out the paper as part of the inquiry into the future directions for the Consumer Data Right (CDR) which will look at how the CDR can be enhanced to boost innovation and competition. This includes looking into how the CDR can be expanded to include "write" access functionality, how the CDR can enable payment initiation, potential linkages to other domestic and international data portability regimes and how the CDR can support productivity and data security in the digital economy. Submissions are welcome until 23 Apr.

OAIC [Releases](#) Consumer Data Right Privacy Guidelines

The guidelines show how businesses can safeguard consumer privacy under the Consumer Data Right (CDR) scheme. The CDR privacy protections help consumers control and use their data, with data only being shared at the consumer's request for a specific purpose and for a limited time period. The OAIC will regulate the CDR privacy elements and handle consumer complaints.

14 Member Digital Advisory Committee [Set Up](#) by Prime Minister

The digital experts advisory committee will work with the Digital Technology Taskforce (DTT), made up of policymakers from across the govt, to transform Australia into a world-leading digital economy by 2030. Interestingly the Digital Transformation Agency (DTA) is not on the Taskforce, nor is its parent agency Services Australia. The committee is made up of many representatives from big tech and big business with only two from the local tech industry, the founder of the agritech start-up Platform and the chair of data specialist Appen. The committee is scheduled to meet once every quarter up to the middle of 2021 and consider new and emerging tech trends, barriers to adoption and how to maximise gains, minimise risks from disruptive technologies.

OAIC [Sues](#) Facebook for Cambridge Analytica Data Breach Scandal

The Office of the Australian Information Commissioner (OAIC) is taking Facebook to Federal Court for breaking Australian privacy laws because the data of Australian Facebook users was passed on to the This is Your Digital Life app by Cambridge Analytica. The OAIC argues that the Facebook design makes it difficult for users to consent or control how their data is being disclosed. Facebook still has not been able to tell the OAIC how many Australian users out of the 311,127 potential cases were affected. The maximum penalty, if Facebook were found guilty, could be AUD1.7m (USD1.1m) per affected user.

PBOC [Publishes](#) Security Specifications for Blockchain Technology in the Financial Sector

The security standards for distributed ledger technology, jointly drafted by the Digital Research Institute under the People's Bank of China (PBOC) and major banks including ICBC, Bank of China and China Construction Bank, provide guidance to institutions engaging in the development of blockchain systems and applications as well as service providers deploying these solutions in the financial sector.

- The specifications lay out security requirements in eleven areas including basic hardware and software, encryption algorithms, distributed ledger data, consensus protocols, nodes communication, smart contracts, identity management, privacy protection, compliance support, operational and governance mechanisms.

Regulators [Release](#) Work Plan to Strengthen Monitoring of Key Financial Infrastructure

The People's Bank of China (PBOC), the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC), the Ministry of Finance, the China Banking and Insurance Regulatory Commission and the China Securities Regulatory Commission have published a work plan to strengthen regulatory oversight on key financial infrastructure to reduce financial risks.

- The work plan focuses on six types of financial infrastructure, namely systems for financial asset registration, clearance and settlement, transaction infrastructure and reporting databases, key payments system, basic credit system.
- Concerted efforts will be expended on enhancing market entry regulations and aligning regulatory standards which will contribute to a highly reliable and flexible financial infrastructure system.

Draft Online Lending Regulations [Stipulates](#) Credit Limits and Loan Period for Individual Borrowers

The draft Provisional Commercial Bank Internet Loan Regulatory Measures, currently in second round of consultation with a small group of stakeholders, intends to further restrict online lending and lower the risks involved.

- Under the draft regulations, commercial banks will be prohibited from accepting risk guarantees from cooperative entities including insurance companies, e-commerce operators, big data and IT companies. For Individual borrowers, the loan amount for online lending will be limited to CNY300,000 (USD42,900) with a maximum loan period of one year.

Innovation and Technology Initiatives [Outlined](#) in 2020-21 Budget

Phase 2 expansion of the Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks (HKSTP) is one of the key initiatives outlined in the 2020 Budget to spur the innovation and technology development in Hong Kong. HKD3bn (USD380m) has been allocated in the development, and the govt is planning to build a third research cluster in addition to those focusing on healthcare technologies, AI and robotics.

- The funding ratio for start-ups and incubates on the Technology Voucher Programme will also be raised to 75%, capped at HKD600,000 (USD77,000) each for a maximum of six projects.
- A pilot subsidy scheme will be implemented this year to encourage the logistics industry to leverage IT to enhance productivity. The HKD3.45m (USD442,500) scheme is expected to benefit 300 logistics service providers.

Smart Lamppost Advisory Committee [Makes](#) Recommendations to Address Privacy Concerns

The Smart Lampposts Technical Advisory Committee was set up in Aug 2019 to review and address issues related to privacy concerns raised by the public in designing and the use of technologies in the smart lampposts, data management and governance structure.

- While the Committee supports the installation of devices that have no privacy concerns such as LED lighting, sensors for air quality, weather and temperature for meteorological applications, the use of cameras and Bluetooth detectors should be replaced by more privacy-friendly technologies.
- A credible and transparent governance mechanism should be established to evaluate and approve any new applications before installation. Regular security and privacy assessments on the technologies, devices and applications for the smart lampposts should be conducted by independent third party based on applicable laws and internationally recognised standards.

TRAI **Claims** Authority to Regulate Cloud

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has suggested that it holds complete jurisdiction to regulate Cloud Service Providers (CSPs).

- In Oct 2019 it had [issued](#) a consultation paper on 'Cloud Services' and a framework for a regulatory body for CSPs.
- In response, industry has warned of overlap, as well as argued that they are already regulated by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), IT Act and outsourcing norms of Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) and Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI).

OTT Platforms **Given** 100 Days

Information and Broadcasting Minister Prakash Javadekar has announced a 100-day deadline for Over-the-Top (OTT) platforms to establish an adjudicatory body and finalise a code of conduct. The govt sees the need to regulate content that is consumed by families.

✎ **Impact Analysis:** The issue of regulating content of streaming platforms was brought to a head when Hotstar [blocked](#) an episode of the John Oliver show critical of PM Modi. The Ministry has been regularly meeting OTT platforms to come up with agreeable terms. The Internet and Mobile Association (IAMA) has also drafted a voluntary code of best practices for OTTs in Jan 2019. The code curbs platforms from streaming content banned by Indian Courts, disrespects religious sentiments, promotes violence or shows child pornography. In Feb, the Digital Content Complaint Council (DCCC), was jointly formed by MIB and the IAMA. Only four OTTs have signed up with the DCCC, with Amazon Prime strongly opposed to the body, and other providers such as Netflix, Zee5, MX player and ALTBalaji requesting more time to deliberate.

Revamp of IT Act

Govt has announced that it will reconfigure the Information Technology (IT) Act, 2000. It will reflect changes in technology adoption and recover provisions such as cybercrime, payments fraud etc.

Ban on Cryptocurrency **Lifted**

Supreme Court (SC) of India has lifted the ban imposed by RBI on cryptocurrency trade.

- In 2018, RBI had prohibited the use of banking channels for cryptocurrency transactions over 'concerns of consumer protection, market integrity, and money laundering'.
- The SC ruled that the ban was 'disproportionate' and there was no visible damage to financial institutions from cryptocurrency trading.

Govt **Boost** for Mobiles


To aid domestic mobile manufacturing, govt has introduced a production-linked incentive of nearly INR420bn (USD 5.71 bn), over 5 years. The scheme aims to make India a manufacturing hub like China or Vietnam.

✎ **Impact Analysis:** Large multinational companies like Apple and Samsung will benefit, but the incentive will only apply on devices with ex-factory price of over USD200. Local producers like Lava, Micromax and Intex will likely benefit more, as the scheme targets domestic companies owned by resident Indian citizens. Apart from encouraging in-country manufacturing, the incentive scheme will also help cut the ballooning cost of imports.

Kominfo [Releases](#) Draft Ministerial Regulation for Consultation

Kominfo has released a draft Ministerial Regulation (MR) that accompanies Government Regulation 71/2019 for consultation. The draft MR, dedicated to govern private scope electronic system providers (ESPs), is open to public comments till 26 Mar. Provisions in the current draft include:

- Data localisation requirement that can only be waived through Ministerial approval (Article 6)
- Obligation of ESPs to (a) have governance procedures in place, (b) ensure its systems do not host prohibited material, and (c) terminate access to prohibited material; failure to do so opens ESPs up to termination of access and imposition of fines (Articles 13, 14, 16, 17, 19)

 **Impact Analysis:** The draft provisions are largely problematic, reversing the relief of data localisation requirement for the private sector that GR71 provided, and containing possibly contradictory liability arrangements. However, thus far, local media [reports](#) on the draft have been largely positive, claiming it makes investment easier etc. This is worrying as it indicates a possible lack of understanding of the implications of these draft provisions.

Integrated Data Centre [Operational](#) in 2023

Kominfo has indicated that preparations will commence on the building of the Integrated Data Centre that has been scheduled for completion and operation in 2023.

BKPM to be [Authority](#) for ICT Business License

ICT business licensing is likely to come under the authority of the Investment Coordinating Board (BKPM). A public consultation is being held for delegation of authority from Kominfo to BKPM.

Cabinet [Approves](#) Bill to Partially Amend APPI

The Cabinet has approved the "bill to partially amend the Act on the Protection of Personal Information (APPI)". This is part of an obligation to review the APPI every three years.

- In particular, the bill seeks to include amendments for businesses to report to the Personal Information Protection Commission (PPC) and notify the individual in case of leakage of personal information, (i.e. data breach notifications). The bill also includes provisions on personal data transfers to third-parties, both local and abroad, and new measures regarding the handling of pseudonymised-processed information so that a specific individual cannot be identified unless it is collated with other information.
- The bill will be submitted to the 201st ordinary Diet session.

Fujitsu [Develops](#) New Govt Cloud Service

Fujitsu will start selling the new service to govt agencies from May 2020. The govt cloud service will be based on its domestic FUJITSU Cloud Service for OSS, and the company aims to introduce it to more than 100 central govt agency systems by end-FY2022.

- Fujitsu also plans to adhere to the cloud service security evaluation system that the govt plans to start operating in FY2020.

JFC [Provides](#) Low-interest Financing to Encourage SMEs' Cashless Adoption

The Japan Finance Corporation (JFC) has established a low-interest loan system to address SMEs' concerns that adopting cashless payments would weigh on cash flow since it would take longer for them to receive payments.

New Malaysian Cabinet [Announced](#)

Freshly appointed Prime Minister Muhyiddin Yassin has announced his new cabinet of 32 ministers, compared to the 14 initially announced by ex-PM Mahathir which was subsequently raised to 28. In lieu of a deputy minister, four senior ministers have been named to assist the new PM:

- Datuk Seri Mohamed Azmin Ali as International Trade and Industry Minister; Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob as Defence Minister; Datuk Seri Fadillah Yusof as Works Minister; and Dr Mohd Radzi Md Jidin as Education Minister.
- In the ICT space, former Minister of Foreign Affairs Dato' Saifuddin bin Abdullah has been appointed as the new Minister of Communications and Multimedia and former youth and sports minister UMNO's Mr Khairy Jamaluddin, as the Science, Technology and Innovation Minister.

Impact Analysis: The new cabinet is marked by the notable absence of a deputy prime minister, in an attempt to prevent any political rifts as four all four parties supporting the Perikatan Nasional (PN) pact are represented. However critics also point to an underrepresentation of both women and non-ethnic Malays despite the larger cabinet size with only five women appointed, and only one Chinese and one Indian minister named.

MYR3 Billion [Allocated](#) for the Rollout Of NFCP Initiatives Throughout 2020

The Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission (MCMC) has earmarked MYR3bn (USD714m) for the rollout of six initiatives under the National Fiberisation and Connectivity Plan (NFCP) in 2020 which aims to reduce the digital divide through the expansion of coverage and improvements in the quality of fixed and mobile broadband, as well as lay the foundation for 5G networks.

- The six initiatives will be fully funded by the Universal Service Provision (USP) fund.

MDEC [Receives](#) MYR20m to Empower MSMEs and Develop E-commerce Hub

Under the Localised e- Dagang Services (PeDAS) programme, the Malaysia Digital Economy Corporation (MDEC) will receive a MYR20m (USD4.7m) investment under the economic stimulus package to transform Rural Internet Centres (PIDs) into an e-commerce hub and help MSMEs better adopt digital technologies.

- PeDAS is an initiative designed to help rural MSMEs market their products through e-commerce platforms and raise awareness and knowhow on how to make use of digital marketing, branding and certification.
- PeDAS is available at PIDs which serve as one-stop centres for MSMEs to learn about and sell using e-commerce.

New Zealand [Establishes](#) New Digital Council

The digital council is made up of seven experts who will help the govt understand the impact of technological change on the lives of New Zealanders and explore how emerging technologies and data uses can improve society from a New Zealand perspective such as can AI be used to help improve the environment or make housing more affordable. The council will also look at and identify gaps that exist, digital divides and help overcome the curse of distance from major trading markets that New Zealand must contend with. The digital council takes over from the Digital Economy and Digital Inclusion Ministerial Advisory Group (DEDIMAG) which finished its work in 2019.

New Zealand AI Forum [Publishes](#) Guiding Principles to Build Trust in AI

It is a high-level guidance for anyone who wants to get involved in designing or developing AI and will get stakeholders thinking about how to incorporate processes and measures in insuring an ethical development of AI locally in New Zealand. The guidance highlights ethical and legal issues and how existing privacy, human rights and liability laws and regulations apply to AI. Principles include fairness and justice, reliability, security and privacy, transparency, human oversight and accountability, and wellbeing.

Govt [Procurement](#) Data Now Open Data

The govt is making available contract award notices in a more (machine) usable format so that researchers and analysts can crunch the data to see whom the contracts have been awarded to and for what value. The contract award notices published on the Government Electronic Tenders Service (GETS) are now released as open data for those who want to better understand govt contracting activity in an effort to build trust in govt procurement. The data files are updated quarterly, with the latest data set uploaded in Jan to the data.govt.nz and the MBIE (Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment) websites.

- New Zealand Procurement [blogs](#) on e-invoicing and how the direct digital exchange of invoices between buyers and sellers will replace paper based and PDF invoices. Govt agencies can find a list of accredited service providers that act as access points and connect businesses to the Peppol (a global standard for e-invoices) network by visiting the New Zealand Business Number (NZBN) website.

IRD [Consulting](#) on GST on Cryptocurrencies

The Inland Revenue Department (IRD) might exclude cryptocurrency from specific GST provisions so long as the cryptocurrency is taxable under the existing income tax rules. Even though the Goods and Services Tax (GST) exemptions never took into consideration crypto-assets GST still could be applied to some cryptocurrencies depending on purpose and design. Services like cryptocurrency exchanges and mining will remain subject to GST and income tax rules. Submissions are welcome until 9 Apr on this and other GST considerations.

Common Tower Rules [Delayed](#)

The Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) is now expecting to issue rules governing common towers sometime in March. A policy was originally expected to be released in 2019 Q2 but was delayed due to concerns on how many players should be accommodated.

House [Passes](#) Bill Allowing Full Foreign Ownership in Telecommunications

The House of Representatives passed House Bill No. 78 amending the Public Services Act to remove the 60-40 foreign ownership restriction in sectors including telecommunications and transportation.

Impact Analysis: If passed, the bill would pave the way for international telcos to enter the Philippine market. However, the bill must pass the Senate where it had previously stalled despite overwhelming support from the business community.

NPC [Extends](#) Registration of Personal Information Processors and Controllers to 31 Aug

In preparation for a new automated system to be launched in July, the National Privacy Commission (NPC) extended the validity of Personal Information Controller and Personal Information Processor registrations until 31 Aug 2020. Registration renewal applications will be accepted beginning 1 Jul.

Govt [Launches](#) Business Registration Streamlining Initiative

The Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) and the Anti-Red Tape Authority have launched the National Business One Stop Shop (NBOSS), a physical co-location where applicants can complete the business registration process in 7.5 days instead of the current 33 days. It is a complementary initiative to the Central Business Portal, an online platform that receives and captures data on business-related transactions and provides links to online registration services of national government agencies.

Govt [Drafting](#) Plans for Data Science Institute

The National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) is planning for a Data Science Institute with the help of the Australian govt and Carnegie Mellon University in Australia (CMU-A). The university is currently implementing an Australian-funded Business Intelligence and Data Analytics (BIDA) short course designed to help govt managers build data analytics and business intelligence skills and capacity, which NEDA says should be available to workers to help adapt to technological innovation.

SGD19m [Fund](#) for SMEs' Building Software Adoption

The gov't has set aside SGD19m (USD13.5m) for SMEs to adopt digital solutions that can complement basic Building Information Modelling (BIM) software, and funds of up to 70% will also be provided for pre-approved solutions. SMEs will be guided to assess their level of digital readiness and to identify digital solutions that can benefit their businesses.

- BIM is a 3D model-based process that gives architecture, engineering and construction professionals the insight and tools for planning and monitoring construction activities, operations and maintenance.

EPAA Report [Reveals](#) Singapore Taking Lead in APAC's Open Banking

The Emerging Payments Association Asia's (EPAA) Open Banking APAC report delves into the case of Singapore as an early adopter and leader of open banking and APIs in the region. The Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS) has taken a market-driven approach where banks may choose to release their own APIs with no industry-wide rules that require or prohibit the sharing of customer-permissioned data by banks with third parties. Initiatives by the MAS include providing guidelines on open banking/APIs, and setting out a framework to track APIs by functional category as they are launched.

- The report provides an overview of developments in the APAC region through surveys of industry experts and participants which shows the diverse development approaches of open banking in APAC and how economies' adoption varies between each other where some gov'ts have been more proactive than others in establishing a foundation to deploy open banking.
- China and South Korea have also taken a similar market-driven approach as Singapore. The prescriptive approach has been adopted in India, Thailand and Australia where gov'ts are playing a highly active role in defining the open banking system. While Japan and Hong Kong have adopted a facilitative approach where an industry standard-setter or gov't agency issues guidance and recommended standards and/or releases open APIs standards and technical specifications where banks and third parties are not obliged to comply with.

MSIT [Update](#) on 5G

At the '5G Service Inspection Task Force' meeting on 11 Mar, the Ministry of Science and ICT (MSIT) updated that over 100,000 5G base stations (BTS) have been built in the country, with almost 5 million users achieved. To promote 5G use, MSIT shared that it has asked telcos and manufacturers to continually improve quality of service. Recently, all three major telcos had [increased](#) their pledged investment from KRW2.7tn (KRW2.22bn) to KRW4tn (USD3.29bn) in H1 2020.

Govt-Industry [Collaboration](#) on COVID-19

In the face of COVID-19, AI, data, and cloud companies in South Korea have expressed commitment to work together. The Ministry of Science and ICT (MSIT) has also announced a support plan that includes the preferential support of high-performance computing resources to institutions and businesses developing AI algorithms or solutions related to the COVID-19 response.

MSIT [Promotes](#) Smart Village

The Ministry of Science and ICT (MSIT) is promoting smart village development to enhance productivity and safety through intelligent information technology. KRW8m (USD6,570) will be provided to four consortiums to develop digital services in this area.

Network Usage Guidance [Expected](#) in May

The Korea Communications Commission's (KCC's) long-awaited 'network usage guidelines' is expected to be released in May. This guidance is expected to help resolve the longstanding SK Telecom-Netflix conflict that began in Nov 2018.

Top Three Telcos [Aim](#) to Debut 5G Services in Q3

Chunghwa Telecom (CHT), Far EasTone Telecommunications (FET) and Taiwan Mobile are all committed to launch 5G services in Q3 after the completion of the 5G auction in late Feb. The mobile operators have submitted their network deployment plans to National Communications Commission (NCC) for approval. CHT has already procured equipment worth NTD7.39bn (USD250m) from Nokia and Ericsson to meet its service roll out timeline in Jul.

- It is [reported](#) that all three operators will let customers currently subscribe to the NTD1,399 (USD47) monthly plan to freely upgrade to 5G connectivity.
- The trio has bid a combined NTD122.07bn (USD4.24bn) in the auctions and they are required to pay the spectrum fees within one month of the second round of auction held on 21 Feb.

Taipei to [Pilot-Test](#) Unmanned Electric Buses in May

The pilots will be carried out by Turing Drive in collaboration with several IT companies starting May on a bus-only lane at a speed of 10-20km/hour after the former has obtained approval from the Ministry of Economic Affairs (MOEA).

- While Trillion Green Energy contributes to the design of a control system for the autonomous buses, ThinkTron and International Integrated Systems are tasked with the development of high-resolution maps and information systems that connect with the traffic lights.
- Upon successful proof-of-concept trials, further pilots with passengers on-board will be conducted between Sep this year and Feb 2021.

Taiwan [Utilises](#) NHI Data to Develop AI-Powered Clinical Applications

Taiwan's National Health Insurance (NHI) database, consists of medical data, CT scans and MRI images uploaded by 30,000 hospitals and clinics, helps to train AI algorithms and develop clinical applications.

- To safeguard personal data privacy, the database administrator will delink the medical information with personal identification through a 32-digit coding system. The administration is considering giving insurance companies access to the data to enhance the design of insurance products.

New [Tax-reporting](#) Obligation May Negatively Impact Digital Financial Services

Thailand has enacted an Amendment of the Revenue Code Act (No. 48, B.E. 2562) and Ministerial Regulation (No. 355), requiring financial institutions to submit reportable financial account information to the Revenue Department by 31 Mar of every year.

- The bill is designed to help the Revenue Department identify digital services and transactions that should be audited, making it more difficult for individuals and businesses to avoid declaring earnings from cashless or non-physical sources.
- The bill requires financial institutions and e-payment service providers to report accounts that comprise earnings from digital transactions. This includes providing the names of account holders, as well as the number and types of accounts/transactions they have engaged in.
- To qualify as “reportable”, accounts must have more than 3,000 transactions in a given year and account for a total of more than THB2m (USD64,000).
- For industry observers, the bill will have detrimental effects on many types of online activities, including freelancers, small social media vendors, and e-commerce ventures.
- Law firm Baker McKenzie sees the bill as an obstacle to the gov’t’s own efforts to encourage the growth of digital and cashless transactions, as it will push taxpayers to prefer cash payments over digital transactions that can be traced back to them.

[Impact](#) of the Covid-19 Virus on Thailand's Digital Economy

The ongoing coronavirus outbreak has sparked worldwide concerns over economic growth and financial stability. A wide range of online services is thriving in Thailand, where all sorts of digital platforms are meeting the demand from people looking for a safe and convenient manner to access products and services.

- According to Facebook Thailand, many of the day-to-day transactions that would normally take place offline are now happening online.
- Local e-commerce vendors and services are ideally positioned, especially if their products are not closely tied to the increasingly disrupted Chinese supply chain.
- Digital services are also on the rise; consumers avoiding crowds can order meals from restaurants, stream blockbuster films, socialise online with friends, and work remotely.
- According to Accenture, this unprecedented demand for digital services is drawing corporate interest for investment.
- From video conferencing and risk management solutions to automated customer relation platforms, the Covid-19 outbreak is pushing businesses to accelerate the adoption and deployment of digital technologies.

MIC [Drafting](#) Decree on Digital Data Sharing

A deputy director at the MIC said that the Ministry of Information and Communications (MIC) is drafting a decree on the management, connection, and sharing of digital data which would make it compulsory for all state agencies to share data with other state agencies.

MIC Spectrum Auctions [Facing](#) Legal Hurdles

THE Ministry of Information and Communications (MIC) is planning to auction the 2600MHz frequency band, but this will require a special decision from the govt, one which the MIC is now consulting with the Ministries of Justice and Finance on.

 **Impact Analysis:** If granted, this will be MIC's first spectrum auction. MIC has managed to avoid auctions to date as telcos have been using previously-granted frequency bands.



TRPC is a boutique consulting firm which specialises in telecommunications and information technology, particularly the policy and regulatory issues associated with national information infrastructure development, with an emphasis on the Asia-Pacific region. We offer specialised advisory, research, and training services, with a focus on economics, regulatory and strategic business issues, and possess an extensive network of industry experts and professionals throughout the region.

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