

Towards a Converged Regulatory Framework in the Age of Ubiquitous Network Society



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Towards Convergence

- License Convergence
 - Fixed/Mobile
 - Telecom/Broadcasting

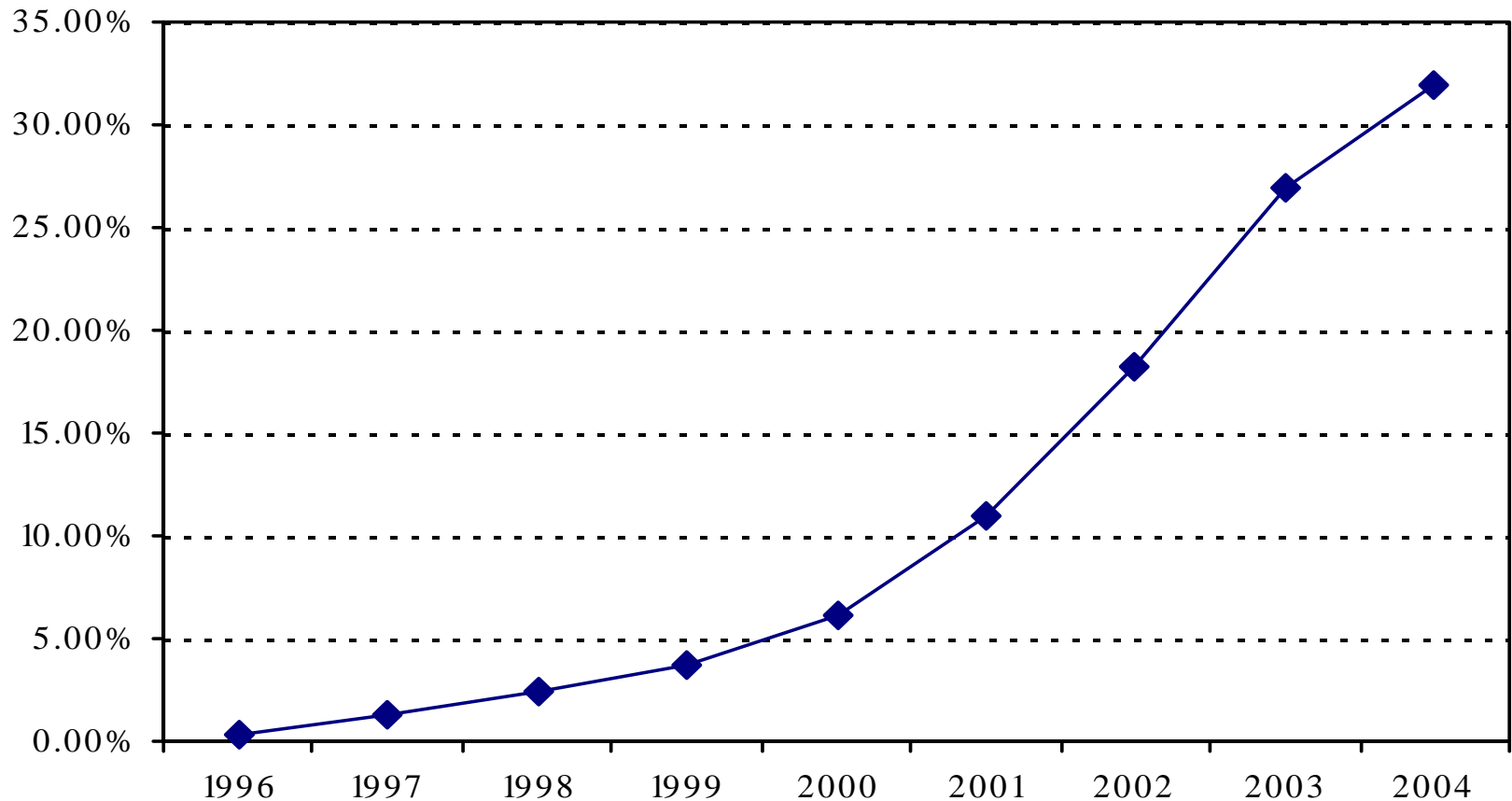
- Regulator Convergence
 - OFTA/Broadcasting Authority



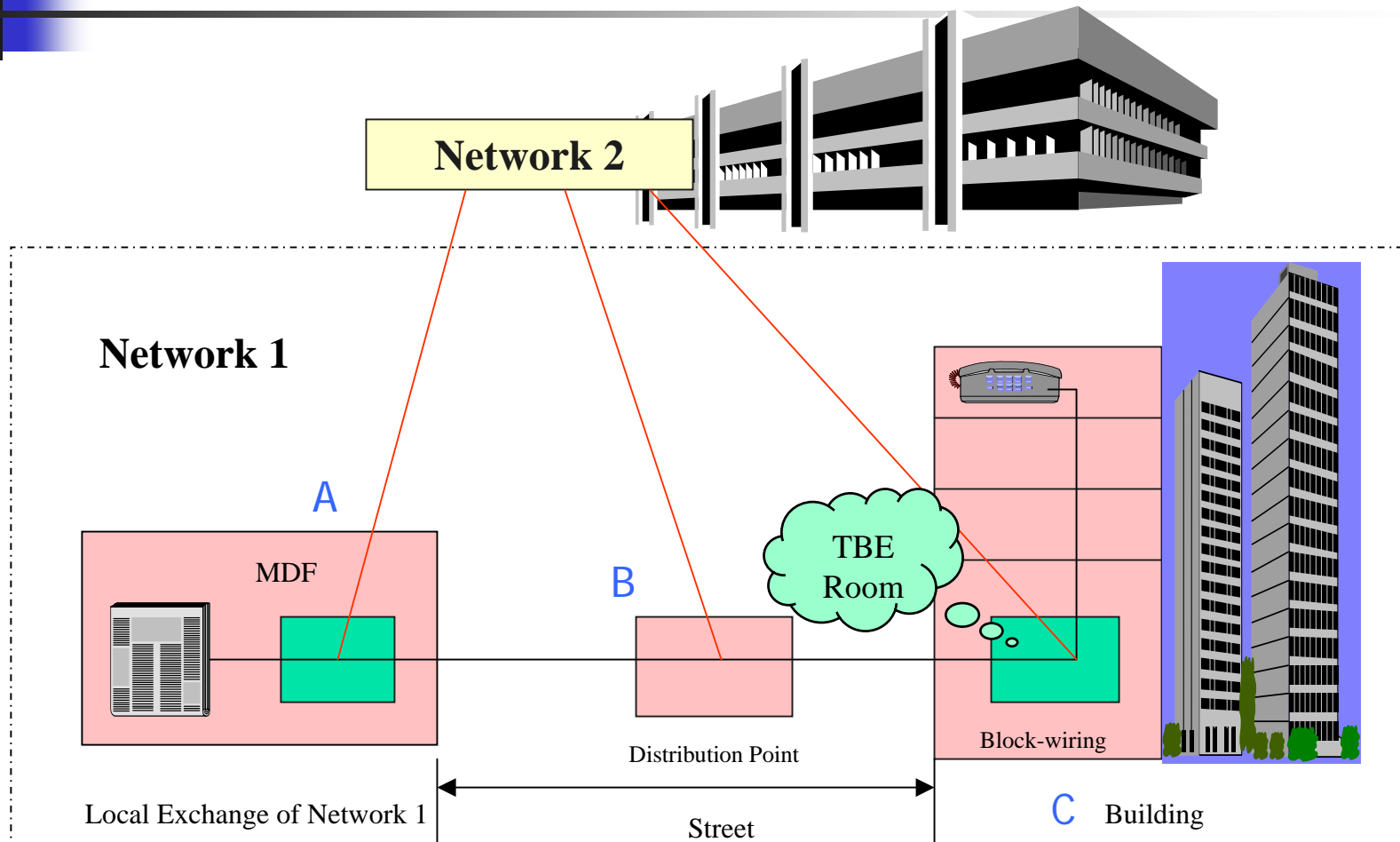
Broadband Wireless Access (BWA)

- **Broadband Wireless Access (BWA):**
 - Multiple Technologies: technology neutral
 - Short delivery period: “on-demand” high speed connectivity for temporary event
 - Primarily the wireless extension of conventional wireline based fixed network
 - An effective solution for Type II Network Interconnection

Accelerated Market Share of New Entrants in Local Fixed Network



BWA: A Solution after Withdrawing Type II Network Interconnection?

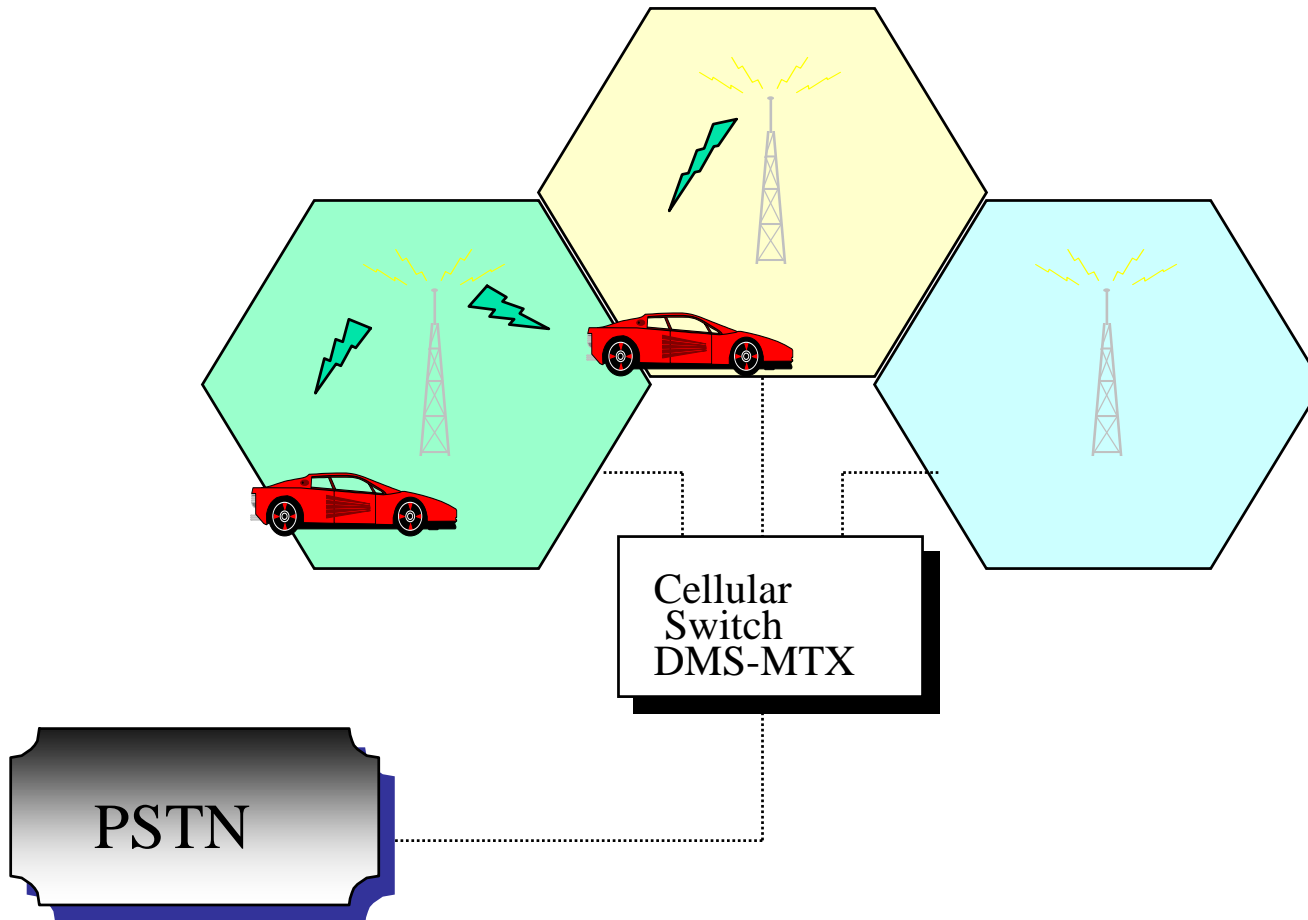




The BWA and Fixed/Mobile Convergence

- Mobile operators' worry: will BWA pose a threat to 3G?
- OFTA: BWA will complement rather than threaten 3G – at least until the technology fully matures, namely with the handoff and roaming capabilities.

Handoff between Adjacent Cells



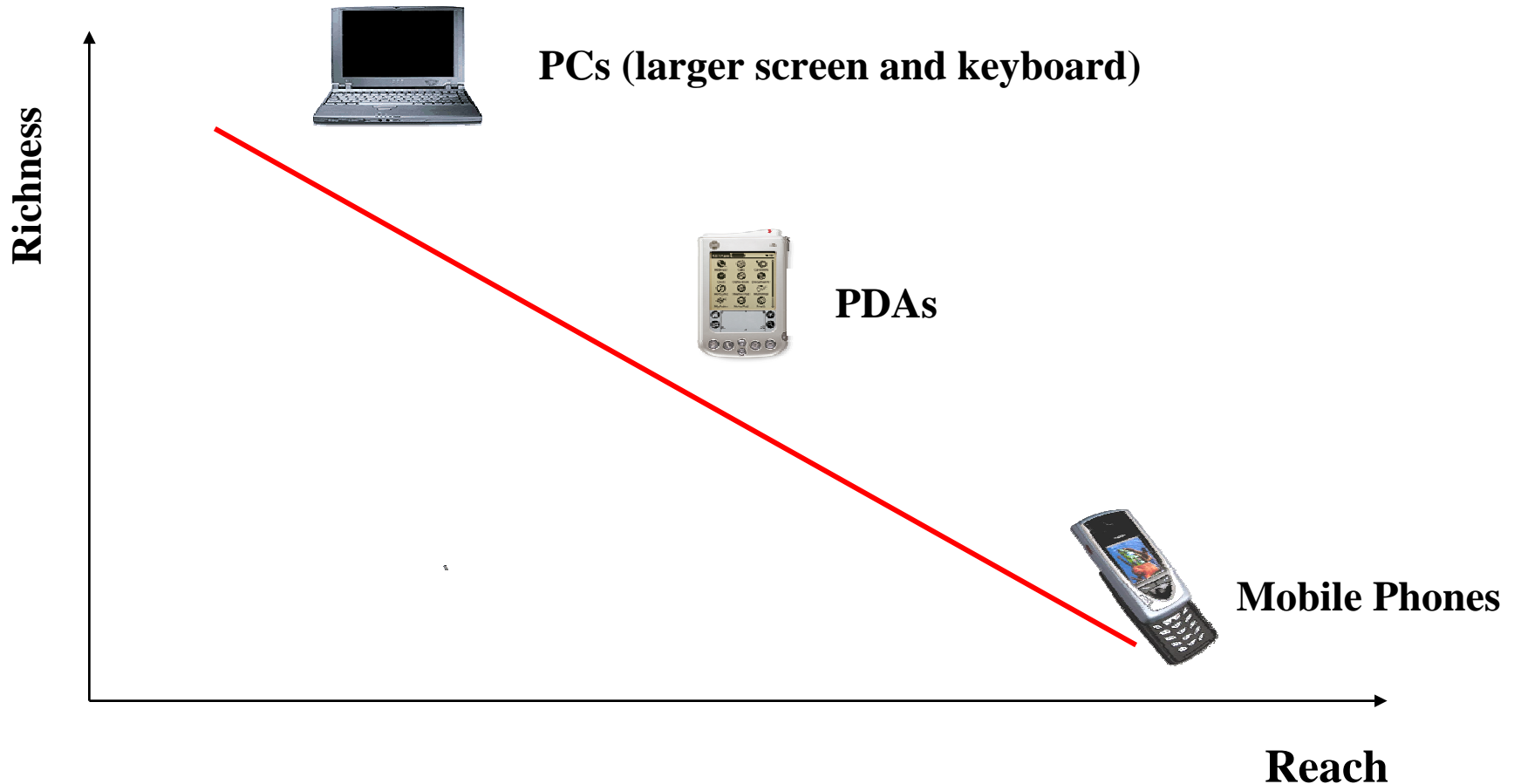
BWA for Mobility: Back to the Origin?

Power Efficiency vs. Terminal Weight



1924: The First Mobile Radio Telephone Source: <http://www.bell-labs.com/technology/wireless/earlyservice.html>

Comparison from the Terminal Perspectives: The Tradeoff between Information Richness and Reach





Who Should Get BWA License?

- Current licensing and regulatory frameworks for mobile and fixed carriers:
 - Separated and different
- Can fixed carrier holding a BWA license provide mobile service?
 - No – then what about technology neutrality?
 - Yes – then what license? Fixed or mobile?



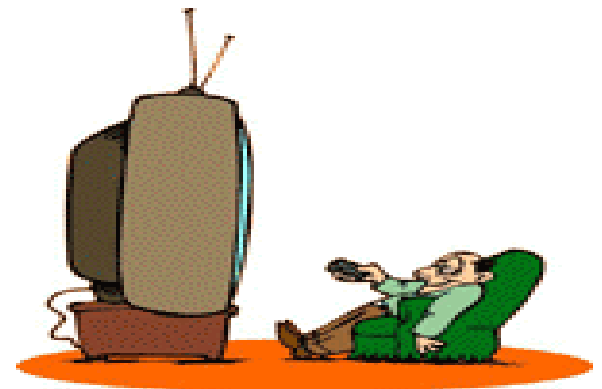
Who Should Get BWA License?

- Can mobile carrier get a BWA license?
 - If yes, can they use their 3G spectrums for BWA service?
 - If no, how can the mobile/fixed convergence be facilitated?

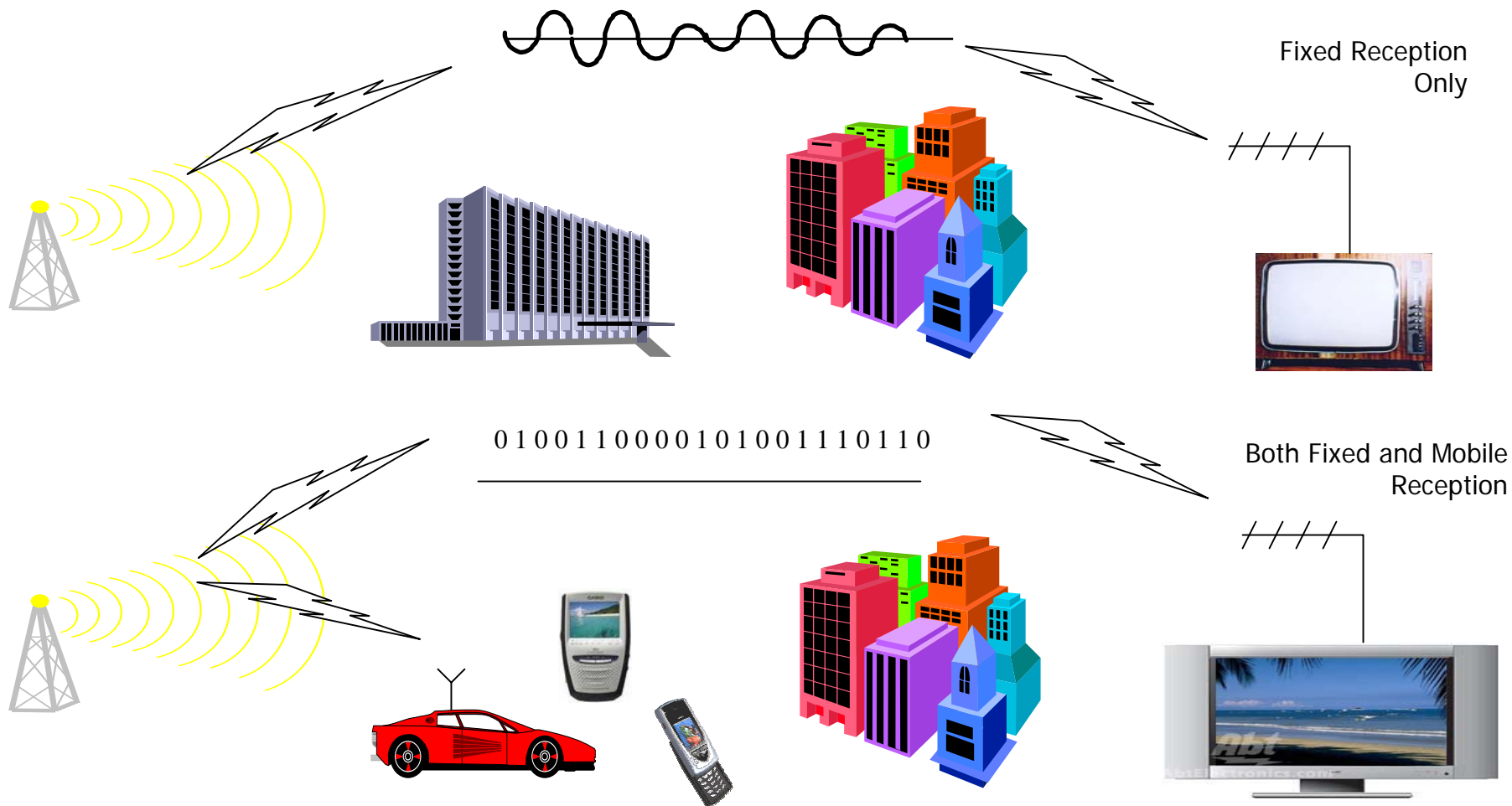
OFTA is positively working on the convergence of mobile and fixed carrier license and conducting a comprehensive policy review of spectrum regulation

Digital Terrestrial TV (DTT) in Hong Kong

- 1998 – government policy paper to introduce DTT in HK after 2002
- 1999 – technology trials of three DTT standards
- 2000/2003 – two rounds public consultation
- 2007 – DTT to be launched in Hong Kong
- 2008 – 75% coverage in HK
- 2012: Analogue switch off



Digital Terrestrial TV (DTT)





Merger of Telecom and Broadcasting Services

- DTT supports all kinds of services including:
 - Mobile broadcasting service
 - Interactive multimedia service
 - Text broadcast services
 - Telecommunications services
 - Merger of audio, sound, video and text services



DTT and Its Policy Implications

- DTT supports mobile TV and mobile interactive multimedia service, while current licenses do not allow mobile communications
- DTT offers both paid and free service while current license are separated for these two business models in accordance with the Broadcasting Ordinance

A new regime to deal with the merger of telecommunications and broadcasting services is required.



Towards a Converged Regulatory Framework

- From technology-orientated regulation towards application-orientated regulation
- The political objective of telecom policy should be guaranteeing “Universal Connection” rather than guaranteeing “Universal Service” in the specific context of EoIP
- Efficiency remains the economic objective of telecommunications policy, while competition between different technologies and different players remains the best option to achieve the economic objective

Towards a Converged Regulatory Framework



CTB Communications and Technology Branch
通訊及科技科

BROADCASTING

- Television and Entertainment Licensing Authority (TELA)



TELECOMMUNICATIONS

- Office of the Telecommunications Authority (OFTA)



Innovation and Technology Commission

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

- Information Technology Service Department (ITS)





THANK YOU!

