

## **REACH is founding member of Asia's first GRX peering point**

**Hong Kong, February 20, 2003** – Singapore's Infocomm Development Authority (IDA) has announced that Singapore will be home to Asia's first neutral Peering Point for GRX (GPRS Roaming Exchange) providers. Supported by the GSM Association (GSMA), this facility is the world's second GRX neutral Peering Point, the first being Europe's GPRS Peering Amsterdam (GPA), and is a key exchange point for GPRS roaming services and traffic in the region.

Facilitated by IDA, REACH is one of the first leading international GRX providers to sign a Memorandum of Understanding to establish Asia's first neutral Peering Point. Other initial parties include Aicent, Belgacom SA and Sonera, and more are expected to sign the MOU in due course.

GSMA's GRX Working Party Chairman Rene Herlaar said, "This facility is in line with the plans of the GRX Working Party to establish peering points in Asia and it enables the global mobile community to deliver GPRS roaming services in a timely and efficient manner."

Traditionally, bilateral relationships between GPRS mobile operators have made global roaming possible. However, the growing number of operators globally has made this an increasingly expensive proposition. A GRX enables various GPRS mobile operators to interconnect their networks by connecting to a dedicated IP-based and secured network. For the mobile operator, this means achieving GPRS roaming with their partner networks simply and quickly by connecting to the GRX operator of their choice. It also facilitates a faster time-to-market for their GPRS roaming services. For mobile subscribers, it enables mobile GPRS roaming. They can access their home GPRS services while roaming abroad.

The birth of an Asian GRX Peering Point is to handle anticipated growth of GPRS services and volumes around the world. It will allow GRX providers with Asian customers to offer better quality of data roaming services, reduced latency, enhanced security and cost savings.

Of the current number of GRX Providers in the world, more are expected to become part of the Asian GRX Peering Point in the near future.

### **About GPRS/GRX**

GPRS (General Packet Radio Service) is the enhanced data service for GSM, a packet-switched mobile network technology, which is widely expected to constitute the next stage in the evolution of GSM networks. GPRS offers end-users an always-on experience with higher bandwidths compared to current GSM technology. These features will enable users to gain easier and faster access to mobile services such as m-commerce, messaging, location-based services and corporate services.

### **About GSMA**

The GSM Association (GSMA) is the world's leading wireless industry representative body. It consists of more than 660 second and third generation wireless network operators working collaboratively to define, prioritise and communicate requirements, as well as key

manufacturers and suppliers to the wireless industry. The Association's members provide digital wireless services to more than 787 million customers (end December 2002). The GSM family of wireless communications platforms account for approximately 72 percent of the total digital wireless market today. The GSM Association is a unique organization, with truly global reach, offering a full range of business and technical services to its members. For more information, visit the website at [www.gsmworld.com](http://www.gsmworld.com).

#### **About GRX Working Party**

The GRX Working Party comprises all providers of GPRS data roaming services in the world.

#### **About IDA**

The Infocomm Development Authority of Singapore (IDA) is a dynamic organisation with an integrated perspective to developing, promoting and regulating info-communications in Singapore. In the fast-changing and converging spheres of telecommunications, information and media technologies, IDA will be the catalyst for change and growth in Singapore's evolution into a vibrant global info-communications technology centre. For more information, please visit [www.ida.gov.sg](http://www.ida.gov.sg).

#### **About REACH**

REACH is a 50-50 joint venture between Hong Kong-based PCCW Limited and Australia's Telstra Corporation Limited. It is Asia's largest international carrier of combined voice, private line and IP data services. It is also one of the world's top ten carriers of international voice traffic. REACH's products and services include an extensive portfolio of voice, data, IP and satellite connectivity. The company has interests in more than 50 submarine cable and satellite systems (including Asia's largest teleport), and operating licences and landing rights in most major markets including Hong Kong, Japan, Korea, Taiwan, Singapore, Australia, North America and Europe. REACH is headquartered in Hong Kong, with a significant presence in Australia and substantial businesses across Asia, North America and Europe. The company posted annualised revenue for fiscal 2001 of US\$1.396 billion and EBITDA US\$434 million. For further information, please visit [www.reach.com](http://www.reach.com)

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