

Alcatel-Lucent launches IP Transformation Center in Singapore

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Speech by Mr Ko Kheng Hwa, Managing Director, Economic Development Board at Alcatel-Lucent Asia Pacific IP Transformation Centre Opening Ceremony on 2 April 2007 at 12.30pm, Raffles Hotel

Mr Vince Pizzica, CTO (Asia Pacific), Alcatel-Lucent,
Mr Pierre-Alain Cadillon, SVP and Head of Southeast Asia, Alcatel-Lucent,
Mr Oliver Foo, Managing Director (Singapore and Brunei), Alcatel-Lucent,
Mr Chan Yeng Kit, CEO, Infocomm Development Authority of Singapore,
Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. I am pleased to join you today for the official opening of Alcatel-Lucent's Asia Pacific IP Transformation Centre (AIPTC).
2. Our partnership with Alcatel-Lucent goes way back. Alcatel has been in Singapore since 1976, and Lucent since 1987. We are all old friends. In fact, some of us may remember the opening of Alcatel's first IPTV and Triple-Play Centre of Competence for the region last year. We are glad that the success of the IPTV Competency Centre has convinced Alcatel-Lucent to choose Singapore as the location for their state-of-the-art IP Transformation Centre.
3. The AIPTC represents an investment of over S\$40m and will be staffed by for more than 80 specialists and professionals. It brings together Alcatel-Lucent's expertise and resources to support the development, integration and testing of communications networks and solutions for regional and global markets.
4. The convergence across IT, telecommunications, media and digital entertainment presents Singapore with new opportunities. And Singapore is well positioned to ride on this wave - from R&D and creation and testing of innovations to content development and deployment of new services and technologies for the international market.
5. Why are we well poised to capture these opportunities? Let me briefly mention 5 main reasons:
 - I. The Singapore society is multi-cultural and tech-savvy. We provide a rich environment to innovate and test out new ICM services and solutions.
 - II. We have excellent ICM infrastructure and widespread adoption of ICM in society and industry. We expect this to make another quantum leap under iN2015 master plan which Yeng Kit will elaborate on.
 - III. Over the past decades of ICM development, we have accumulated a large pool of skilled ICM professionals. This is supplemented by the inflow of multi-national talent. The resulting diversity and vibrancy of our talent pool is highly conducive to generating new ideas and inventions.
 - IV. Singapore is investing heavily in R&D. The government has committed a budget of S\$13 billion over the next 5 years to support R&D. Interactive and Digital Media has been targeted as a key sector that our R&D thrusts will focus on.
 - V. Singapore hosts a number of world class industry clusters and best practices in both the manufacturing and services sectors. They provide a fertile ground to find partners and develop industry-specific ICM solutions and applications for the global market.

To summarise, with these 5 distinctive advantages, Singapore is an ideal hub for a broad spectrum of ICM innovation activities: from R&D and content development to system integration and deployment of ICM services and solutions for global markets.

6. In conclusion, I thank Alcatel-Lucent for your confidence in Singapore as the location for your Asia Pacific IP Transformation Centre. Congratulations to the management and staff of Alcatel-Lucent on the opening of this Centre. The EDB wishes you success. We assure you of our continuing strong support and look forward to greater collaboration and strengthening of our relationship. Thank you.