

Joint Committee on the National Broadband Network
Answers to Questions on Notice
Public Hearing 16 April 2012
Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio
NBN Co Limited

Question No: 1

Hansard Ref: Page 55

Topic: Long Term Satellite

Mr Turnbull MP asked:

Could you provide the Joint Committee with some examples of commercial satellites like the Ka-band satellites NBN Co is acquiring that have been launched into orbital slots in respect of which the allocation has not been given?

Answer:

Please see the NBN Co media release of 18 April 2012, which includes the following information:

Among those engaged by NBN Co on the satellite frequency coordination process are internationally-acknowledged expert consultants in the field. They include Mr. Bill Hope, former CTO, EVP and Managing Director Networks for Optus Australia and Singtel Singapore for 15 years from 1992-2007. He commented:

"The ITU statement refutes utterly the suggestion that NBN Co is taking 'highly unusual risks' by signing contracts to build and launch satellites 'without securing their orbital parking spots first'. Anyone suggesting otherwise either does not understand the process or is being disingenuous.

"As the ITU says, it's not uncommon to launch a satellite before it has received final assent from the agency. I remember on one occasion at Optus the approvals process was so drawn out that the satellite was entered into the ITU's Master Register several years after it had been launched and was nearing the end of its lifespan. That said, I anticipate no such problems with the NBN satellites."

Joint Committee on the National Broadband Network
Answers to Questions on Notice
Public Hearing 16 April 2012
Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio
NBN Co Limited

Question No: 2

Hansard Ref: Page 56

Topic: Long Term Satellite

Mr Fletcher MP asked:

In the event that an orbital slot is not obtained, will Arianespace or one of the other well-known launchers launch the Ka-band satellite?

Answer:

Yes, they will launch on NBN Co's instruction.

Joint Committee on the National Broadband Network
Answers to Questions on Notice
Public Hearing 16 April 2012
Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio
NBN Co Limited

Question No: 3

Hansard Ref: Page 56

Topic: Long Term Satellite

Senator Cameron asked:

Is there any recorded evidence anywhere that people have built these types of satellites, that is, Ka-band, and have not been able to launch them?

Answer:

NBN Co is not aware of any satellite operator's launch provider being stopped from launching their Satellite by the ITU.

Joint Committee on the National Broadband Network
Answers to Questions on Notice
Public Hearing 16 April 2012
Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio
NBN Co Limited

Question No: 4

Hansard Ref: Page 57

Topic: Long Term Satellite

Mr Fletcher MP asked:

Can you provide the Committee with the arithmetic behind the total satellite capacity versus the total number of subscribers as it relates to the decision to launch two satellites?

Answer:

The arithmetic can be represented with the equation $A=B/C$, where:

A= the number of customers

B= the aggregate forward capacity across two satellites

C= the Mean Busy Hour Throughput network dimensioning required per domestic premises

Joint Committee on the National Broadband Network
Answers to Questions on Notice
Public Hearing 16 April 2012
Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio
NBN Co Limited

Question No: 6

Hansard Ref: Page 60

Topic: NBN Co's specifications for the fibre rollout

Mr Hartsuyker MP asked:

Can NBN Co advise the Committee of instances where the NBN's specifications were deficient and resulted in the need for remedial work at a cost to the taxpayer? What was the cost to the taxpayer of these occurrences?

Answer:

We are unaware of any cases where a deficiency in an NBN specification has resulted in the need for remedial work at taxpayer cost.

Joint Committee on the National Broadband Network
Answers to Questions on Notice
Public Hearing 16 April 2012
Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio
NBN Co Limited

Question No: 7

Hansard Ref: Page 61

Topic: NBN Co's Wiring and Installation Guide

Mr Hartsuyker MP asked:

- a) How many different versions of the wiring guide or installation guide have there been?
- b) Have there been instances where developers have suffered a financial loss due to errors contained with the wiring guide?

Answer:

- a) Guides to developers, builders and cablers are updated regularly with NBN Co consulting widely with builders, developers and peak associations as part of the standard process of developing and disseminating updates.

Generally, updates have provided for easier and better approaches with a view to reducing costs to either home builders or NBN Co. For example, the changes in the last version were in response to home construction practices in WA, and facilitated a lower cost installation in masonry walls. It also incorporated recently released specifications for gas line clearance, which weren't available to NBN Co at the time of the previous release.

To date there have been four updates to NBN Co's wiring/installation guide for new developments, now entitled, *Preparation and Installation Guide for Single Dwelling Units (SDU) and Multi Dwelling Units (MDU)* (NBN-NO-GDE-0011). That is, the current version is version 5. It is available online at: <http://www.nbnco.com.au/assets/documents/preparation-and-installation-guide-for-sdus-and-mdus.pdf>.

- b) We are unaware of any developer suffering a financial loss due to an error in the wiring/installation guide.

Joint Committee on the National Broadband Network
Answers to Questions on Notice
Public Hearing 16 April 2012
Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio
NBN Co Limited

Question No: 24

Hansard Ref: In writing

Topic: In-home wiring guides

Mr Hartsuyker MP asked:

Will homes configured using specifications from earlier versions of the in-home wiring guides require modification or remediation to accommodate NBN installation?

Answer:

No. If a home has been configured in accordance with the specifications of any issue of the in-home wiring guides¹, there is no need or requirement for modification or remediation to accommodate NBN installation.

¹ *Preparation and Installation Guide for Single Dwelling Units (SDU) and Multi Dwelling Units (MDU)* (NBN-NO-GDE-0011) at <http://www.nbnco.com.au/assets/documents/preparation-and-installation-guide-for-sdus-and-mdus.pdf>