

# MALAYSIA

## Providing Satellite Internet Services?

Photo by NASA on Unsplash

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### INTERNET FREEDOM

Partly Free

### INTERNET PENETRATION

97%

### FREQUENCY

C-band, Ku-Band, and Ka-band

**This document provides basic information about legal aspects of satellite internet services when provision of these services is being considered. This fact sheet comprises general guidance and cannot be a replacement for legal advice.**

### OVERVIEW

The contents of this factsheet pertain to the laws, regulations, and guidelines that prescribe the norms and obligations governing the provision and operation of satellite internet services in Malaysia.

### RELEVANT LAWS AND REGULATIONS

The legal framework governing internet access comprises several key statutes in Malaysia, including *Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission Act (1998)*, *Communications and Multimedia Act (1998)*, *Communications and Multimedia (Spectrum) Regulations (2000)*, and *Malaysian Space Board Act (2022)*.

### REGULATORY BODIES

The **Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission (MCMC)** is responsible for regulating communications and multimedia activities, including the provision of internet services.

Malaysia is the second country in ASEAN to establish the Space Board, which is tasked with controlling and supervising activities related to satellite launches.

### ARE THERE INTERNET RESTRICTIONS?

Internet censorship is prohibited in Malaysia. However, there have been cases where the government has ordered website blocking as a result of actions that are deemed illegal under various laws, such as copyright infringement, gambling, shariah offenses, offensive and indecent content, and politically sensitive material.

### TYPES OF LICENSES

In order to offer internet access using satellite, it is necessary to obtain the following licenses/authorizations from the MCMC.

- a) **Network facility provider license:** This license is required to operate and control satellites. The validity period is determined upon the grant of the license.
- b) **Application service provider license:** This license is required to offer internet access services. The validity period is determined upon the grant of the license.
- c) **Apparatus assignment for use of spectrum:** This is required to operate a network facility like a satellite. It remains valid for a period of 5 years.

Additionally, a license known as a "launch permit" is needed to launch a satellite from Malaysia. This license is issued by the Space Board.

### LEGAL NATURE OF SATELLITE INTERNET

In Malaysia, the provision of satellite internet is governed by two different regimes. One part falls under the legal framework for Internet service provisioning, while the other part, which deals with satellite launches, is regulated by under the space law regime. Currently, Malaysia has successfully launched eight satellites into Earth's orbit, with at least four of them being capable of providing internet access.

### ELIGIBILITY FOR LICENSING

Any entity that is not a foreign company (as defined by the Companies Act), an individual, a sole proprietorship, or a partnership, is eligible to apply for the necessary licenses for satellite internet services.

### END USERS' LICENSES

To subscribe to satellite internet access, an end user can choose from various service providers such as SpeedCast, Satellite NOC, Measat Satellite Systems, ASN Satellites,