

Satellite Internet Access Guide: Malaysia

October 2023

Using this Guide

Question: This column contains the relevant question to be addressed under (Response).

Response: Information addressing the question identified under (Question) is contained in this column.

Additional Information: This column contains any clarification or added information necessary to better understand the information under (Response).

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Abbreviations for Legislation

- Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Act 1998 (Act 589) (**MCMA**)
- Communications and Multimedia Act 1998 (Act 588) (**CMA**)
- Malaysian Space Board Act 2022 (Act 834) (**Space Board Act**)
- Communications and Multimedia (Spectrum) Regulations 2000 [P.U.(A) 128/2000] (**Spectrum Regulations**)

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S/N	Question	Response	Additional Information
1	Does the member state have law(s) relating to internet service provisioning and access?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> MCM Act CMA Spectrum Regulations 	
2	Are there restrictions on use or access to internet?	Internet censorship is prohibited by virtue of Section 3(3) of the CMA. However, there have been instances of website blocking ordered by the government due to acts considered prohibited by different laws including copyright violations, gambling, shariah offenses, offensive and indecent contents, politically sensitive contents , etc.	
3	Is satellite a medium used to provide internet access in the member state?	Yes. Malaysia has launched 8 satellites into earth's orbit. 4 of these satellites are used for different purposes including internet access.	
4	Are there existing legislations for satellite internet access?	Space Board Act.	In addition to the legislations enumerated in No. 1 above, the Space Board Act was enacted to regulate space activities, including satellite launches.

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5	Which agency is responsible for regulating internet service provisioning including satellite internet provisioning?	Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission (MCMC) is the regulatory agency for communications and multimedia activities, which includes internet service provisioning.	There is no separate agency in charge of regulating satellite internet access.
6	Who can provide internet service using satellites?	Any person that meets the licensing criteria for the particular service intended to be offered. <i>See No. 7 below.</i>	
7	Is a license or permission required to use, operate, or control satellite for internet access? What is the procedure for obtaining these licenses/permits?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Further to Section 126 of the CMA, a network facility provider license is required for the operation and control satellites, while an application service provider license is required to provide internet access services. Both licenses are categorized as individual license, and such application shall be submitted in line with the provisions of Section 27 of CMA. While the applications are submitted to MCMC, the grant of the license is done by the Minister in charge of communications and multimedia who shall act on the recommendation of MCMC. 2. Pursuant to Section 17 of the Space Board Act, a license (launch permit) is required to launch a satellite from within Malaysia, while a launch certificate is required if an entity incorporated in Malaysia intends to own or launch a satellite from in or outside Malaysia by virtue of Section 	

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		<p>18. An application (together with supporting documents and application fee) must be submitted to the Board pursuant to Section 19.</p> <p>3. Operating a network facility (in this case, a satellite) requires use of spectrum and an application for an apparatus assignment must be made (either by submitting a hard copy or online application) to MCMC pursuant to Section 164 of the CMA.</p>	
8	What is the validity period for these licenses/permits?	<p>1. There is no provision for the duration of an individual license, which presupposes that the duration is determined upon the grant. However, Section 34 of the CMA makes provision for the renewal of such license.</p> <p>2. The launch permit or certificate will stipulate the duration of the license, as stated under Section 26 of the Space Board Act, and the license may be renewed in accordance with Section 28.</p> <p>3. An apparatus assignment is valid for a maximum period of 5 years as stated under Section 168 of the CMA.</p>	

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9	What are the technical requirements for use of satellites for internet access?	Based on Malaysian's spectrum chart , C, Ku and Ka bands can be used to provide satellite internet access.	
10	Are there existing (or planned) satellite internet providers operating in this economy?	A register of all holders of individual licenses is provided on MCMC's website . The broadband satellite operators include SpeedCast, Satellite NOC, Measat Satellite Systems, ASN Satellites, Privasat, etc.	
11	Does an end user require a license to access satellite for internet connectivity?	No. An end user can approach any service provider that offers satellite internet access and subscribe to the service.	