

## AsiaSat Roger Tong, CEO

The arrival of 5G services is imminent in various Asian markets. China will be rolling out 5G during the celebration of the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China in October 2019, while Hong Kong will be auctioning the 5G C-band spectrum in October as well. The 5G rollout is causing significant reduction of overall C-band satellite capacity, not only broadcast service but also essential services for mission-critical operations such as disaster recovery.

It is fortunate that telecom authorities in Asia reacted cautiously to this new rearrangement of spectrum use, with decisions made after extensive public consultation. Moreover, task forces and working groups were formed and field trials on mitigation solutions were all started before the planned deployment of 5G networks. For example, South Korea, Malaysia, China and Hong Kong have all done extensive studies in 5G compatibility.

As the deployment of 5G in C-band has become inexorable, the priority of Asia-Pacific satellite operators has shifted to protecting the existing services of our customers, while we will continue to lobby administrations, regulators and mobile operators on deploying 5G in a more logical alternate spectrum, such as the 30GHz or above frequency band. In the upcoming ITU-R WRC-19 in October/November, Agenda Item 1.13 will be identification in Ka-band and above 30GHz for the future IMT service. With the work conducted over the past four years following the WRC-15, administrations will conclude and decide new frequency bands for global use of



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5G networks while at the same time ensuring the protection of incumbent satellite services.

AsiaSat has conducted multiple

studies and tests with regulators to explore various mitigation measures, including the use of bandpass filter, proper site selection and shielding. AsiaSat has completed the development of a series of high-performance 5G bandpass filters proven to work effectively in protecting our customers' C-band services against out-of-band interfering signals from nearby 5G base stations. These filters are being rolled out to customers and other service providers to protect our customers' standard C-band services. Coupled with traffic re-grooming of our customers' spectrum assignment, this is expected to mitigate the 5G rollout impact.

We look forward to working closely with mobile operators for the coexistence of 5G mobile services and existing satellite service.