

## **Procedure for Bidding of Choice Number Level(s) Requested by An Operator**

### **Introduction**

1. An operator eligible for allocation of numbers may request for out-of-sequence 8-digit number levels<sup>1</sup> not covered by the administrative allocation or sequential number level bidding scheme initiated by IDA. Such number level desired by the operator is referred to as a choice number level. IDA will consider such request and conduct bidding as described in the following paragraphs.

### **General Principles and Procedures**

2. An eligible FBO / SBO (e.g. cellular mobile, paging, public trunk radio and IP telephony operators) is eligible to initiate bid for any available 8-digit choice number levels (except those listed in Attachment A) including those that have been placed in the common pool.
3. Operators do not need to meet any utilisation criteria before they can request to bid for a choice number level under this procedure.
4. The minimum bid price will be set at \$500,000 for a choice number level of the format 'AAAA XXXX' (e.g. '6666 XXXX') and \$150,000 for all other choice number levels.
5. Any choice number level successfully bid will only be considered officially allocated upon payment of the bid price. All payment must be forwarded to IDA within seven (7) working days. The allocation of such number level is not transferable.
6. Once a choice number level allocation and payment have been made, there will be no refund even if the choice number level is returned to IDA.
7. Except where approved by IDA, a choice number level acquired at the bidding session should be used<sup>2</sup> within 6 months from the date of allocation. IDA will recover the number level without refund if it is not used within the period.
8. Where IDA grants approval under Para. 7 upon the submission of justification by operator, the period of extension shall not exceed 6 months. If the choice number is still not put into use after the extension, IDA will recover the choice number level without any refund.

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<sup>1</sup> Only 8-digit numbers from open levels (e.g. Level '3', '6', '8', '9') are available for bidding.

<sup>2</sup> Number levels are considered used once they are connected in different operators' networks or when they are made available to the public

9. A choice number level acquired under this procedure will be taken into account in the computation of the utilization criteria.

### **Bidding Arrangements**

10. Upon receipt of an operator's request to bid for a choice number level, IDA will notify other eligible operators and request them to indicate within 30 days their interest to also acquire the same number level.
11. If there is no interest from other operators, the choice number level will be allocated to the requesting operator upon payment of the minimum bid amount plus GST.
12. If one or more other operators are interested to acquire the same number level, IDA will conduct a bidding session. The operator(s) concerned will be informed of the date and time of the bidding session.
13. The arrangement for the bidding process will be explained to interested operators prior to the actual bidding session.
14. A choice number level successfully bid for by the highest bidder will be allocated to the operator upon payment of the bid amount plus GST.

**Attachment A****Number Levels Not Opened for Bidding of Choice Number Level(s)**

The following are 8-digit number levels not opened for bidding. IDA reserves these levels for various purposes: provision of future services by operators or minimising wrong calls to an emergency or a global service. IDA may review the reservation and make changes from time to time.

Number Level Reserved	Remarks
3000 - 3009	Future new services
6000 – 6009	Future new services
8000 - 8009	Used by ITFS / HCDS <sup>3</sup>
8010 - 8099	For expansion of ITFS / HCDS
8823	Minimising wrong calls to global service using ITU format '882'
9000	Future new services
9900 - 9999	Prevention of wrong calls to '999'

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<sup>3</sup> ITFS – International Toll-Free Service  
HCDS – Home Country Direct Service