

## Daily Thai News Summary: 12 November 2015

### 1. Passage for five transport projects

Source: **The Nation** ([Link](#))

The Public-Private Partnership Committee chaired by Somkid Jatusripitak, deputy prime minister in charge of economic affairs, has green lighted the initial five transport projects - mass transit and road - worth Bt334.21 billion to proceed under the fast track policy. Under the policy, bidding and procurement will be completed in nine months instead of one year and 10 months, so the construction of the five projects could all begin next year.

Ekniti Nitithanprapas, director-general of the State Enterprise Policy Office, said yesterday that the three mass transit projects are the Pink elevated line from Khae Rai-Min Buri for Bt56.72 billion, Yellow elevated line from Lat Phrao-Samrong for Bt54.77 billion and the extensions to the Blue line from Hua Lamphong-Bang Khae and Bang Sue- Tha Phra worth Bt82.49 billion. The two road projects are the Bt84.6 billion Bang Pa In-Nakhon Ratchasima motorway and Bt55.62 billion Bang Yai-Kanchanaburi motorway.

Agencies are expected to provide follow-up reports on the fast track development to the PPP Committee by the end of this month and a progress report every month. Agencies are expected to provide follow-up reports on the fast track development to the PPP Committee by the end of this month and a progress report every month.

### 2. Japanese firm eyes Thai home shopping

Source: **The Nation** ([Link](#))

Tokyo Broadcasting System Holdings (TBS) sees huge potential in the growing Bt8billion homeshopping industry in Thailand. *"We find that Thailand is a promising market for the home shopping business, so we decided to enter this lucrative market,"* Norico Wada, senior executive producer for international co-productions and alliances, business innovation and media strategy at the Japanese media company, said yesterday.

Masahiro Todaka, general manager for licensing business development and media business, hopes knowledge and cultural transfers between the two parties would lead to a new form and value of TV production. Wada said Amarin brought to the partnership a strong retail and logistics advantage in the home shopping business. Amarin Book stores cover key areas of shopping malls that might become a distribution channel for Grand Marche, which is a specialist in home shopping services through television, radio, catalogues, online media and mobile

phones. *"For three months, we will take this opportunity for a trial period. If everything goes well, we hope to see further development and to bring more activities to Thailand, as there is more room to grow in the Thai home shopping business,"* Wada said.

### **3. Marathon bidding for 4G licences exceeds bt50 billion in 30 rounds**

Source: **The Nation** ([Link](#))

THE latest bidding price for both 1800MHz telecom licences, as of press time, yesterday had surged to Bt50.530 billion and the latest bid for each licence was in excess of 100 per cent of the full spectrum value. In round 30, the bid for the first licence had reached Bt25.066 billion, 26 per cent higher than the full value of Bt19.890 billion, and the bid for the second licence was Bt25.464 billion, 28 per cent higher than the full value.

The marathon bidding, hosted by the National Broadcasting and Telecommunications Commission (NBTC) at its headquarters on Phaholyothin Soi 8, was going on at the time of going to the press after having begun at 10am. The NBTC telecom committee, at 7pm yesterday, abruptly called a special meeting to extend the closing time for the bidding from the scheduled 9pm until clear winners emerged. The bidders were allowed a break from 9-9.30pm. NBTC secretary-general Takorn Tantasith said yesterday that the bid should end at 9pm and continue today. The NBTC, however, was concerned that if the four bidders were allowed to go back home yesterday, it could raise doubts among the public of their possible collusion when they return for bidding today.

The minimum starting bid for each licence was Bt15.912 billion, which amounted to 80 per cent of the full spectrum value. The four participants were allowed 20 minutes per round to make their bids. The four bidders were Advanced Wireless Network (AWN) of Advanced Info Service (AIS), DTAC TriNet of Total Access Communication (DTAC), True Move H Universal Communication of True Corp, and Jas Mobile Broadband of Jasmine International. They aim to secure the licence to provide 4G service.

### **4. SF Corp eyes CLMV for cinema business**

Source: **The Nation** ([Link](#))

SF Corporation, an operator of multiplex theatres, is conducting a feasibility study of the CLMV market (Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam) for its first expansion outside Thailand. The company will take another year or two to study the market.

Chief executive officer Suwat Thongrompo said the company would next year invest between Bt600 million and Bt700 million to set up new cinemas in six or seven locations in the

Kingdom. These include Robinson Lifestyle Center Lopburi, CentralPlaza Nakhon Si Thammarat, CentralPlaza Nakhon Ratchasima, Terminal 21 Korat, and one or two locations in Bangkok. *"We intend to expand our cinemas into the CLMV market. However, the market needs time to be more mature,"* said Suwat, adding that the CLMV market was quite free of competition in the cinema business. *"I believe that once the Asean Economic Community is effective at the end of this year, the CLMV market will reach the mature stage in the next one or two years. Thailand's political stability and the government's measure to promote special economic zones will make the investment picture clearer,"* he said.

## **5. ZF to shift gears with Thai expansion**

Source: **The Nation** ([Link](#))

ZF, one of the top three automobile component suppliers in the world, is reinforcing its leadership in Thailand through steady product portfolio expansion. The global leader in driveline and chassis technology is also set to further strengthen its position as a marine industry leader by opening its marine propulsion systems business unit in Thailand.

ZF Marine is a worldwide leader in the marine market with about 1,100 employees and sales of 255 million euros (Bt9.8 billion) last year. It boasts almost 100 years of global expertise and has served the Thai market for over 20 years. Its Bangkok office is fully equipped with a strong reputation for the highest quality products and efficient service.

\*\*\*\*\*

By Harsha Hazarika