

Thai News Update: 16 January 2019

1. Nbtc Approves Draft Of Auction Conditions

Source: Bangkok Post ([Link](#))

The telecom regulator's board on 15 January approved a draft of auction conditions for the 700-megahertz spectrum and remedy measures for digital TV operators, divided into seven slots of 5MHz of bandwidth each. The initial term of the 700MHz licence is 20 years, and the payment term for the licence is 10 years. Bid winners have to pay for the first instalment in the first year at 20% of the winning price, stop paying in the second year and resume paying the rest in the third to 10th years, at a rate of 10% of the winning price each year.

2. Brighter Prospects For E-Commerce

Source: Bangkok Post ([Link](#))

Thanks to the growing popularity of online shopping in Thailand, e-commerce is expected to have the brightest growth prospects this year, while book rental, handicraft and conventional furniture are forecast to face the bleakest outlook. Thanavath Phonvichai, vice-president for research at the University of the Thai Chamber of Commerce (UTCC), said Thais buy more products online because of the ease, convenience and cheaper prices. The government has actively promoted alliances between Thai businesses and global e-commerce providers such as Alibaba, Amazon, Lazada, Shopee and Coupang to drive community and farm products both to domestic and international markets.

3. Neo Opens Integrated Facility

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

NEO CORPORATE yesterday marked a new milestone in its operations with the official opening of an integrated manufacturing plant, equipped with a world-class automated warehouse and an R&D centre at a total cost of Bt2 billion. Located on a 190-rai (30-hectare) plot in Pathum Thani, the setup of the new integrated facilities is in line with the company's plan to grow sales and contributions from overseas markets, especially CLMV countries (Cambodia,

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Laos, Myanmar, and Vietnam), China, India, and the US. Neo Corporate targets its sales revenue to reach Bt10 billion by 2022, up from Bt6.6 billion this year.

4. Artificial Intelligence To Run Traffic Lights At All Bangkok Intersections

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

Artificial intelligence will be operating the traffic lights at all 505 intersection in Bangkok “soon”, rather than police officers manually working the switches, according to a senior policeman. Pol Col Kitti Ariyanon, deputy commander of the Police Bureau’s Traffic Police Division, said AI was already on the job around the clock at 59 intersections, figuring out how to lessen or increase motorists’ waiting times in every direction depending on the traffic flow. He said police would work with the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration to introduce the system at all intersections soon. Kitti said traffic police had actively responded to motorists’ complaints about the night-time waiting times being too long at 50 intersections and had reduced the times by 15 per cent.

5. ‘Election A Key Factor’ In 2019 Growth

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

THAILAND’S economic growth in 2019 will hinge on the upcoming election, according to a Krungthai Bank expert. The Krungthai Macro Research team has forecast that the Thai economy will grow at 4.1 per cent in 2019, down from 4.3 per cent in 2018. The key growth engine for 2019 will be investments from both the public and private sectors. Exports and tourism, the growth drivers in 2018, have withered under the weight of global uncertainties, said Phacharaphot Nuntramas, senior vice president of the Global Business Development and Strategy Group under Krungthai Bank.