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Singapore Round-Up The Straits Times (Singapore) October 27, 2010 Wednesday

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The Straits Times (Singapore)

October 27, 2010 Wednesday

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BODY:

Telcos against plans for stiffer fines

Four telecom players have objected to a Government proposal to raise the ceiling of penalties up to 10 per cent of annual sales of licensable services of vendors which breach regulations under the **Telecommunications Act**.

M1, SingTel, StarHub and OpenNet raised their objections in response to a public consultation exercise by the Ministry of Information, Communications and the Arts (Mica). Their responses were posted last week on the website of the Infocomm Development Authority.

Mica is proposing a maximum fine of 10 per cent of a company's annual turnover of licensable services or \$1 million, whichever is higher, for breaches like delivering sub-standard mobile and broadband services or engaging in anti-competitive behaviour, such as not sharing telecommunications infrastructure.

The current maximum penalty is \$1 million.

A fifth respondent, **Asia-Pacific Carriers'** Coalition, did not object to the penalty increase per se but suggested the amount be decided by the courts.

Mica's public consultation started on Aug 27 and ended Oct 8. The amendments were intended to be tabled in Parliament by early next year.

Fight against piracy to go on [Facebook](#).

The Government intends to bring its efforts to protect intellectual property rights into [Facebook](#).

The Intellectual Property Office of Singapore (Ipos) will launch projects next year to promote the importance of respecting copyright laws on [Facebook](#).


Ipos said it has chosen to use the social networking site to maximise the impact of the message on young Internet users.

The details of the [Facebook](#) campaign are still being worked out.

The campaign is part of Ipos' Honour Intellectual Property Alliance programme, which is now in its eighth year.

Compiled by Tan Chong Yaw

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