

Qualcomm helps AIS optimise 4G-LTE-A broadband

JIRAPAN BOONNOON
THE NATION

ADVANCED Info Service has collaborated with Qualcomm Technologies to optimise its fourth-generation LTE-Advanced network to improve upload speeds by 130 per cent and downloads by 150 per cent beyond conventional LTE (long-term evolution) technology.

Kriengsak Wanichnatee, AIS's chief technology officer, said that under the collaboration, US-based Qualcomm Technologies would help his company take its LTE-A network to the forefront of such technology in Southeast Asia, reinforcing its capability and readiness to support the latest smartphones at their full capacity.

With upload and download speeds 130 and 150 per cent higher than conventional LTE technology respectively, users will be able to access video streaming on their mobile phones and experience faster mobile broadband performance. AIS expects that of the 15 million to 18 million new smartphones sold in Thailand this year, about 30 per cent or 4.5 million will be premium units that support LTE-A.

Kriengsak said AIS's 4G network now covered 98 per cent of the country and was available to 41 million of the company's mobile subscribers.

Suwit Pruchwattananon, country manager for Thailand and Myanmar at Qualcomm, said the firm was supporting AIS in commercialisation and deployment of new technology to improve performance and increase customers' productivity. Mantosh Malhotra, head of Qualcomm Southeast Asia and Pacific, said it had optimised LTE-A networks in Hong Kong, the Philippines, Vietnam, Indonesia and now Thailand.