



**Press Release**  
**For immediate release**

## **Ascendas-Singbridge and M1 announce largest fibre upgrading project for commercial buildings under IMDA's Fibre Ready Scheme**

- ***Biggest deployment under Infocomm Media Development Authority's Fibre Ready Scheme (FRS) to date***
- ***Ascent at Singapore Science Park is the first FRS-enabled building***
- ***Some 70 commercial buildings will be enhanced by 2018***

**SINGAPORE, 3 November 2016** – Ascendas-Singbridge and M1 Limited (M1) today announced the completion of Ascendas-Singbridge's first Fibre Ready Scheme (FRS) installation at Ascent, a 7-storey integrated business park, retail, and food and beverage development situated along Singapore Science Park.

Ascendas-Singbridge, Asia's leading sustainable urban and business space solutions provider, has appointed M1 as its corporate FRS partner. M1 will install and enhance the necessary telecommunication and fibre infrastructure at 70 commercial buildings under Ascendas-Singbridge's portfolio in Singapore. By 2018, the tenants at these commercial buildings are expected to be able to benefit significantly from the enhanced infrastructure, which would allow expedient access to fibre broadband services.

This is Singapore's biggest commercial deployment under the FRS, a programme launched in 2014 by the Infocomm Media Development Authority (IMDA) as part of a S\$200 million funding to help owners of commercial buildings enhance their buildings' telecommunication infrastructure. The scheme endeavours to facilitate easy and speedy provisioning of fibre broadband connectivity to the building's tenants with any provider of their choice. Under the scheme, a one-time subsidy is granted to defray the costs for the building owners to install and upgrade open access fibre connectivity infrastructures.

Prior to the introduction of the FRS, fibre service providers that sign up a customer in a commercial building would typically engage a contractor to provision the necessary fibre assets and equipment on an individual, ad-hoc basis.

With the FRS, besides making fibre services more accessible to businesses, such a centrally-managed one-time deployment model would also minimise disruption to business and building operations, and reduces future maintenance and operational complexities.

"The partnership between Ascendas-Singbridge and M1 will greatly enhance businesses' open access to fibre broadband services. We are heartened by this partnership and the value add that Ascendas-Singbridge is providing to its tenants. With the addition of Ascendas-Singbridge's 70 buildings, close to 200 buildings have applied for FRS to date.



We would strongly encourage more commercial building developers and owners to leverage on the FRS to enhance and future-proof its buildings' fibre infrastructure before the programme and funding ends in March 2018," said Mr Khoong Hock Yun, Assistant Chief Executive of the Infocomm Media Development Authority.

"In today's digital economy, access to cost-effective high-speed fibre connectivity is a very important consideration for Singapore businesses looking to grow and compete on the global stage. The FRS is part of our continuous product enhancement initiatives and it results in a faster turnaround time for our customers applying for fibre broadband services," said Mr Tan Yew Chin, Chief Executive Officer, Singapore & Southeast Asia, Ascendas-Singbridge Group".

"M1 was the first to launch commercial fibre broadband service in 2010, and we are pleased to build on that effort to partner Ascendas-Singbridge to install and upgrade the fibre infrastructure across its commercial buildings island-wide. This will enable even more corporates to rapidly enjoy M1's innovative, competitively priced, and highly effective business connectivity service and corporate solutions such as cyber security and unified communications," said Mr Willis Sim, Chief Corporate Solutions and Sales Officer, M1.

"Our customers provide healthcare services to their patients - this is why it is important for us to ensure we always have access to our customers. Thus we were pleasantly surprised by how incredibly fast M1 was able to provision fibre connectivity for us – just a week from the time we signed the contract. If this is what FRS can do for companies like us, then it is definitely a fantastic initiative by the government, and I hope more building owners will follow Ascendas-Singbridge's example in deploying FRS for their buildings," said Sierra Solutions Chief Executive Officer Ranjan Vaswani.

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**About Ascendas-Singbridge Group ([www.ascendas-singbridge.com](http://www.ascendas-singbridge.com))**

Ascendas-Singbridge is Asia’s leading provider of sustainable urban and business space solutions. With the combined capabilities of Ascendas and Singbridge, the group is uniquely placed to undertake urbanisation projects spanning townships, mixed-use developments and business/industrial parks. Headquartered in Singapore, Ascendas-Singbridge has projects in 29 cities across 10 countries in Asia, including Australia, China, India, Indonesia, Singapore and South Korea.

Ascendas-Singbridge has a substantial interest in and also manages three Singapore-listed funds under its subsidiary Ascendas. Besides these listed funds – Ascendas Reit, Ascendas India Trust and Ascendas Hospitality Trust, Ascendas also manages a series of private real estate funds, which hold commercial and industrial assets across Asia.

Jointly owned by Temasek and JTC Corporation (“JTC”) through a 51:49 partnership, Ascendas-Singbridge Group is the asset and investment holding arm of the integrated urban solutions platform formed by Temasek and JTC to capitalise on urbanisation trends in the region.

**About M1 Limited ([www.m1.com.sg](http://www.m1.com.sg))**

M1 is Singapore’s most vibrant and dynamic communications company, providing mobile and fixed services to over 2 million customers. Since the launch of commercial services in 1997, M1 has achieved many firsts, including the first operator to offer nationwide 4G service, as well as ultra high-speed fixed broadband, fixed voice and other services on the Next Generation Nationwide Broadband Network (NGNBN). With a continual focus on network quality, customer service, value and innovation, M1 links anyone and anything; anytime, anywhere. For more information, visit [www.m1.com.sg](http://www.m1.com.sg).