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# The Role of Government to Foster Digital Infrastructure

Canadian Telecom Policy and Regulatory Environment

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- Shaping Canadian telecom policy and regulations from a strategic perspective as well as on a day to day basis:
  - Industry Canada,
  - CRTC,
  - and the GIC
  
- Many (or too many) hands in the pot?

- Focus on facilities-based competition: almost every country states this as its overall objective.
  - But real life implementation varies significantly from country to country, depending on industry structure in place and of the answer developed to the \$64K question “how to foster/increase facilities based competition everywhere and for all market segments?”
    - European approach: UK, France,
    - Australia
    - US
  - Is Canada’s approach leading to a near duopoly or sometimes a single supplier situation in next generation broadband wireline networks ?

- Spectrum policy and award: a critical component of next generation broadband
  - AWS, BRS, 700, more ?
  - Canada lagging US and EU countries;
  - Need to provide more clarity .... spectrum award timeline and evolution perspective
  - Benefits from an integrative approach as opposed to piecemeal?
  - Spectrum award to be an administrative task?

# Foreign Direct Investment

- Conflicting Recommendations from the Industry and Heritage Committees in 2003
- Comments of the Telecom Policy Review Panel (2006)
- Recommendations of the Competition Policy Review Panel (2008)
- In 2008/9, IC reviews Canadian ownership of 2008 spectrum auction winners, awards licenses and then, CRTC does its own assessment relative to Canadian ownership.

# Concluding Remarks

- Does the Canadian model to achieve ubiquitous and competitive next generation broadband need serious fine tuning?
- Should next generation networks be treated differently?
- One size fits all approach applied to all market segments may not yield the desired results
- Keep focus on stimulating private investment, and include foreign investment ?

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Thank you