APEC Telecenter Workshop, Taipei, 2005

Challenges in Telecom Regulation

Dr. C. K. Mao Chair Professor National Chiao-Tung University



Observations, Vision and Propositions

- Observations a perfect storm is forming
 - -PSTN-based telephony business' ever difficult position
 - -Saturating Mobile Voice Service
 - -Emerging Wireless technology disruptive innovation
 - -Regulatory regime at crossroad
- Vision A Structure Change
 - -The Convergence of Fixed, Mobile, Wireless, Broadcasting, and Information Services
 - -Industry Structure: from vertical to horizontal
- Propositions
 - -Regulatory solutions going forward

PSTN --- Endangered Spicy

- Voice Empire -- Collapsing
 - − Price Cap, ILD Price Competition → Shrinking pie
 - − Traffic shift Fixed Mobile Substitution → 20% to 50%
 - − Hi-growth VOIP business → 10% to 20% evaporated, up to now
- Core Network Obsolete and Vulnerable
 - Expanding IP Network PSTN marginalized
 - Venders Maintenance Capacity divested
- Access Network -- Challenged
 - Bandwidth: Cable and Fiber vs. ADSL
 - Deployment Cost: WiFi (WiMax) vs. ADSL
- Regulation -- Unfriendly
 - Asymmetric Regulation vs. Mobile and Wireless Businesses'
 - USO, Interconnection charge, UNE (for incumbent), ...
- Business Stalled
 - Broadband VAS not taking off, no promising new revenue stream

PSTN's Vanishing Point?



* The fixed-mobile substitution effect not included.

OP. CK Man Talanam Damilation (ADEC Manlackan)

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Interplay among Alternative Technologies

- The Game
 - The mantis is seizing the cicada not knowing the oriole just behind
- The hunter has the power to decide who wins
 - What the hunter should really do is the creation of a win-win-win situation



Ope OK Man Talanam Damilation (ADEO Manhahan)

Vision: Horizontal Convergence



Vertical Regulatory Regime

Horizontal Regulatory Regime

Propositions for New Regulatory Policy -- 1

- Don't work against Technological Trend

 It's useless to prevent a trend from happening
- Don't naively copy other countries' practices –Differences in infrastructures' status, competition intensity, consumer spending, calling pattern, ...
- Set Clear Goals
 - -Reconcile the interests of governments, incumbents, new entrants, and consumers
 - –Provide incentives to promote investment and infrastructure-based competition, and continued development of networks and technological innovation

Propositions on New Regulatory Policy -- 2

• Policy Refocus

- Fixed-line incumbent's last mile monopoly had been broken by mobile and other wireless technologies
 - Transferring the incumbent's profit to consumer or competitor is no longer a "real" issue going forward
- Mobile, wireless, cable, fiber, and the old fixed-lines should be all put into regulatory regime's overall picture in the future
- From asymmetric to symmetric regulation, e.g., USO issue
- For Developed Economies
 - Horizontal integration (interconnection) of various electronic communication technological platforms
 - New form of Virtual Network Operators (VNO) and Content Providers to use new hybrid infrastructure to provide broad-band multi-media seamless services at market cost
 - More market competition force than regulation power
- For Developing Economies
 - Parallel deployment of alternative electronic communication technological platform
 - Watch the digital divide between urban and rural areas

Infrastructure Deployment Strategy



Info-communication Service in the future



Ope CK Man Talanam Damulation (ADEC Manhaham)

1. 04 0005 (



ckmao@mail.nctu.edu.tw

