

GSR 2008 Discussion Paper

Comments are welcome and should be sent by 13 April 2008 to GSR08@itu.int



GSR 08: Session 5 Sharing National Fibre in Developing Countries

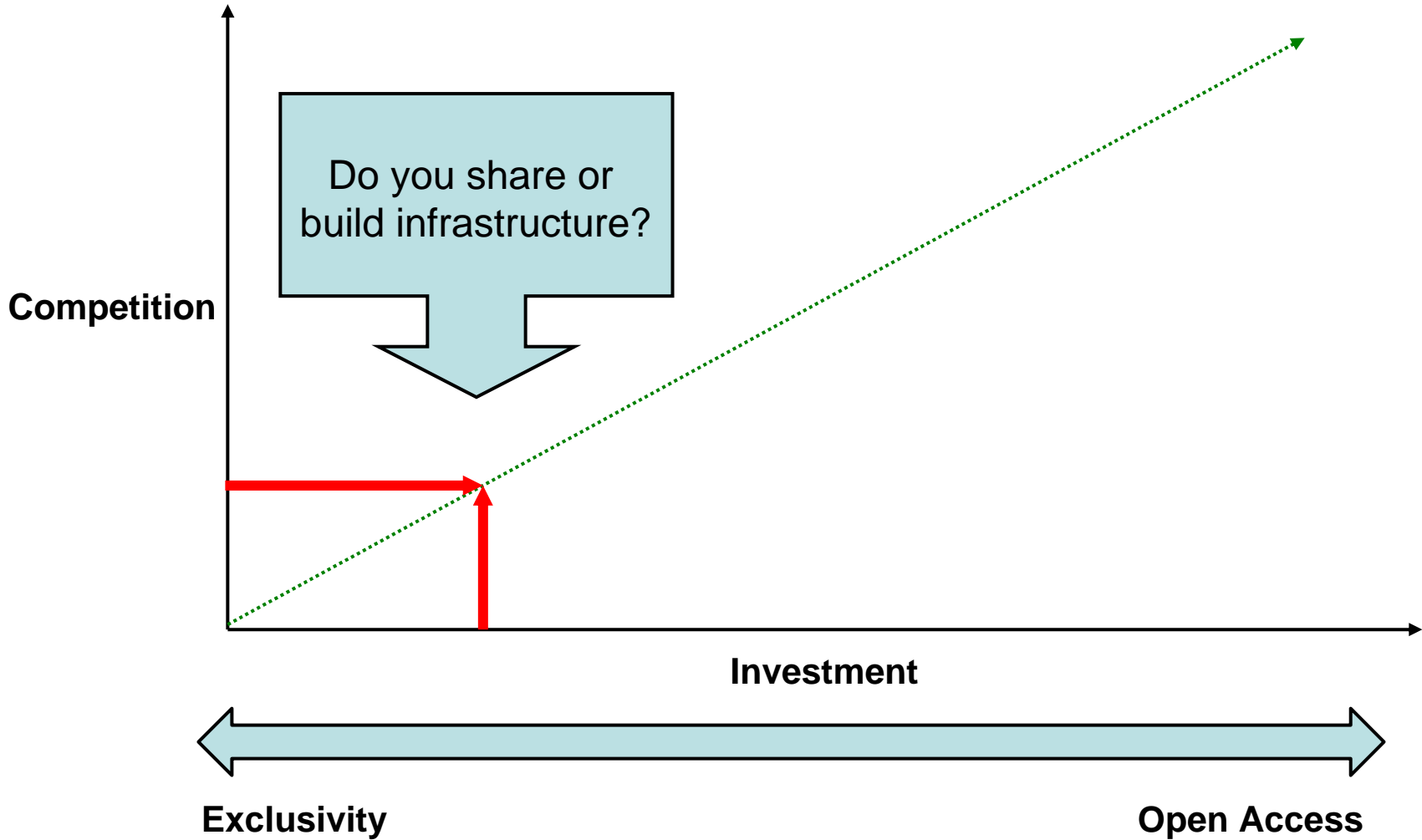
**Dr. Tracy Cohen and
Russell Southwood**

The views expressed in this presentation do not necessarily represent the views of ICASA.

Assumptions

Communications infrastructure (and specifically broadband) is essential for economic and social development	pp. 7 - 14
Objective is affordable, wide-spread access and coverage	pp. 7 - 36
The key mechanism is competition	pp. 26-36
The key metric is increased investment in infrastructure	pp. 26-30
Sharing will reduce costs of entry	pp. 14-26
These are largely “access regime” and rights of way issues	pp. 14-26
The regulatory tools exist	pp. 30-36
Political will is central	pp. 7 - 36

The Challenge



Regulatory Approach

- Informed by different country contexts



- State/privately owned infrastructure wholesaler
- New entrant/Greenfield player
- *Legacy-plus* hybrid (JV, co-operative)
- Non-telecoms infrastructure that allows rights of way access
- Functional/structural separation



- Licensing/authorizations
- Licence fees
- Pricing
- Rate of return
- Creative policy

Tailor country and policy specific solutions

Implementation Considerations

- Political will to bring about conditions for competition
 - clear policy
- Commercial imperative & market outcomes
 - identify critical infrastructure sites
- Incentive creation
 - subsidies, licence fee reduction, exemptions, more spectrum
- Non-discrimination and transparency
 - require publication of infrastructure installations
- Pricing
 - reasonable rate of return

Implementation Considerations

- Technical feasibility
 - open access network deployment
- Competition framework
 - dominance/Significant Market Power
- Enforcement and dispute resolution
 - service level agreements
 - billing and settlement procedures
 - confidentiality of customer information
- Employ first principles

Practical Recommendations for Regulators

- Consult
- Licence/authorize/create incentives
- Improve transparency from operators
- Reference sharing offers?
- Mandate access to bottlenecks
- Enable rights of way to reduce costs
 - Mandate sharing
 - RoW sharing cross sectors
- Explore competitive bidding/auctions when licensing municipal or backhaul providers
- Require coordinated trenching/ducting
- Identify critical infrastructure sites

Other Practical Recommendations

**Government and
local authorities**



Act as a clearing point for rights of way if multiple agencies/entities involved

Transparency – site surveys and geographic information

Reduce costs

Speed up process

Industry



Be creative with sharing

Transparency – publish information on infrastructure installations

Coordinate trenching and ducting works

GSR 2008 Discussion Paper

Comments are welcome and should be sent by 13 April 2008 to GSR08@itu.int



Thank you!

tcohen@icasa.org.za

www.icasa.org.za

www.itu.int/gsr08