

WORKSHOP ON SATELLITES IN IP & MULTIMEDIA

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Global Broadband Satellite Infrastructure Initiative



I. OVERVIEW

- The “Digital Divide” is the highest priority of the world’s telecommunication community.
- Multiple conferences have called for the political willingness to develop a strategy and a concrete Action Plan to overcome the Digital Divide.
- Infrastructure, Access, and a Regulatory and Policy Framework are also among the top agenda items of the WSIS.

- The history of the telecommunications industry has shown how the international community has accomplished major achievements to promote the worldwide development of telecommunications and should serve as a model to overcome the Digital Divide.
- Compare to cable solutions, satellite technology could, on an affordable and timely basis, bring broadband Internet services to all developing countries.

- 70 countries, accounting for more than 60% of the world population, are satellite dependant.
- Today, planned satellite projects that use new generations of satellites with innovative technologies for two-way high-speed Internet access mainly focus on high profitability markets, which already are well-served by terrestrial technologies.
- In order to strengthen infrastructure and access, the world's telecommunication community should promote the emergence of a Global Broadband Satellite Infrastructure (GBSI).

- A Public-Private Partnership will be the key element for the success of the GBSI, but the role of each partner will need to be clearly defined.

- This GBSI would be predicated on four fundamental concepts:
 - availability of dedicated spectrum and orbital resources associated with pre-determined geographic coverage,
 - development of a universal GBSI technical standard for broadband equipment and services,
 - provision of two-way high-speed Internet access using low-cost terminals, and
 - guaranteed access to market.

II. BACKGROUND

- Resolution 1721 (XVI) of the General Assembly of the United Nations set forth the principle of the availability of satellite communications to the nations of the world on a global and non-discriminatory basis.
- Resolution 64 of the ITU promotes non-discriminatory access to modern telecommunication facilities and services.
- The satellite industry has already developed the components needed for a global broadband satellite infrastructure.

III. ROLE OF STATES AND GOVERNMENTS

- The international community should encourage the build-up of a global broadband satellite infrastructure that allows universal, two-way, high-speed Internet services through a low-cost, small-dish platform. This would require:
 - A global political decision to identify a limited number of orbital positions and frequency spectrum resources, associated with predetermined geographic coverages.
 - ❖ Sufficient new spectrum and orbital positions dedicated to the GBSI can be identified. For this purpose, countries may be requested to modify part of their national allocations in the ITU Plans (BSS and FSS).

- A Commitment to achieve a universal GBSI technical standard for two-way, high-speed Internet services, including consumer terminal and frequency interface specifications (in a manner similar to that used to develop GSM or IMT-2000).
- ❖ The ITU, the private sector and all standardization bodies should be invited to contribute to the development of a universal GBSI technical standard. In doing so, due consideration should be provided to Resolution 101 of the ITU on Internet Protocol (IP)-Based Networks.

➤ A Commitment to set-up a pro-competitive and harmonized regulatory framework for the GBSI services that would include:

- ❖ granting “landing rights” to all operators providing GBSI services,
- ❖ granting authorization to qualified Service Providers based on minimum common licensing requirements,
- ❖ enforcing interconnection among all satellite operators participating in the GBSI,
- ❖ ensuring competition by allowing at least two operators to provide broadband services in each geographic region, and
- ❖ considering the public service dimension of two-way high-speed Internet access.

IV. ROLE OF THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS INDUSTRY

- Operators participating in the built-up and operation of the GBSI should commit to:
 - financing their own infrastructure,
 - using the new Spectrum & Orbital positions identified for GBSI service within the geographical coverage they serve,
 - using the universal GBSI technical standard, and
 - providing interconnection of their satellite network with the networks of all the other participating GBSI operators.

V. CONCLUSIONS

- An information society for all mankind requires the creation of a global broadband infrastructure, in which satellite technology will play a key role.
- Use of satellite technology makes it possible to develop this infrastructure in a reasonable time frame.
- To achieve this objective, an innovative public/private partnership is required and a specific worldwide new regulatory framework is needed.
- We must capture this unique opportunity.

Thank you.



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