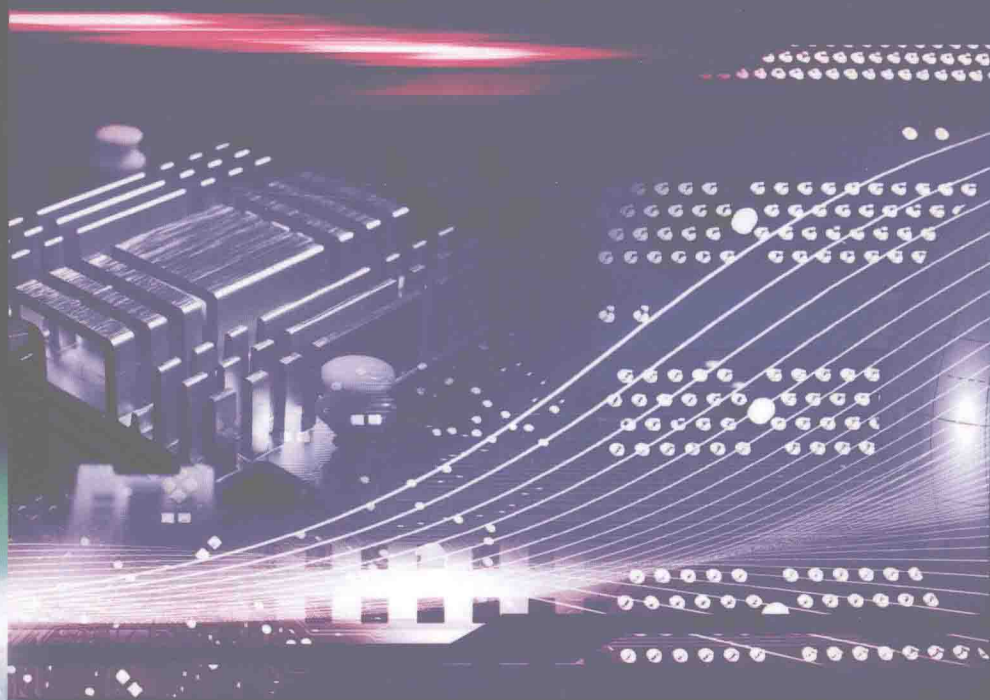




Promoting New Telecom Infrastructures

Markets, Policies and Pricing



Edited by
Morten Falch • Jan Markendahl

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Preface

The abolition of state monopolies and the liberalization of telecommunication markets were accompanied by the hope that the new dynamics based on competition as the driving force would result in abundant investment. Even the network infrastructure was supposed to benefit from market liberalization. And – with very few exceptions – the literature showed a deep conviction that the infrastructure would be created most efficiently under a competitive regime. However, we were all taught otherwise. The promotion of new telecommunications infrastructure is an open debate, and the chapters of this book overflow with topics such as ‘regulation’, ‘state aid’ and ‘incentive programmes’. Thus, if markets do not generate satisfactory results (or cannot rely on effective mechanisms of competition), alternative models have to be developed using the instruments of regulation, investment support, credit facilitation or risk sharing in order to provide essential infrastructures.

The infrastructure debate – emphasising essential facilities, unbundling and NGN or NGA – has been reflected in the programmes of conferences of the International Telecommunications Society for many years, proving that the symptom is enduring. This book is based on contributions to the ITS European Regional Conference in Rome that took place in September 2008.

Two other issues of great importance for current market dynamics and imbued with significant policy implications, namely the pricing of NGN networks and innovative mobile services, make this volume complete. Both issues – although referring to essentially different markets – reveal a complex relationship of market dynamics on the one hand and regulatory need as well as regulatory impact on the other.

The variety of the contributions in this volume bears witness to the purpose of ITS conferences: policy makers, representatives of the business world and, last but not least, academics are invited to exchange ideas, to specify the terms of their controversies and to enhance the level of understanding of markets, policies and regulation. The ITS would like to thank the editors of this book and all the authors for the documentation of these efforts.

Brigitte Preissl
ITS Vice-Chair

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