

From: **Telecommunications Industry Association**  
One Pager On: **Broadband: Supply, Demand and the Role of  
Regulatory Policy**  
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The 1,100 companies of the Telecommunications Industry Association manufacture and supply the products and equipment used in global communications networks. TIA long has focused on broadband deployment as *the* critical issue for the communications industry, and as a major stimulator of the national and global economies. Broadband's ubiquitous deployment will bring major advances in education, healthcare, teleworking, and e-commerce, as well as public safety and security. Such capability will equip every American with the tools necessary to compete in the 21st century – making them far more productive, increasing their standard of living, and enhancing economic and physical security. Broadband's benefits will be realized only if it is made available widely and within a reasonable time period. This is not happening. TIA believes however that, as a nation, the U.S. can take action to assume a front-running role. We urge the U.S. Government to develop a national broadband policy and implementation strategy. The overriding objective of this public-private partnership should be to ensure that all Americans have access to current high-speed Internet access technologies in the immediate future and to next generation broadband services by 2005.

#### **TIA's Broadband Policy Principles**

- Affordable, highly advanced and secure communications services should be available to all Americans.
- Competitive market forces, not regulation, should be the principal means of achieving this goal.
- Governments should intervene only where such intervention (1) is necessary to effectively address a specific, critical problem and (2) is targeted and otherwise designed to minimize disruption to competitive, market forces.
- Governments should make available the necessary radio spectrum for the deployment of advanced communications services.

#### **A national broadband policy and strategy that builds on the above principles should include:**

- Technology-neutral tax credits and other incentives for investments by all carriers that extend both current and next generation broadband services to residential subscribers;
- Timely allocation of sufficient and appropriate additional spectrum suitable for the provision of advanced wireless services, including third-generation systems;
- Modification of Federal Communications Commission ("FCC") regulations to relieve telecommunications service providers of the so-called federal and state "unbundling" obligations on *new broadband network components* in order to give them the necessary incentives to invest;
- Formalization of the current FCC policy of not regulating access to cable companies' high-speed networks;
- Revocation of regulations on integrated data, voice and video equipment that unnecessarily increase the costs of the associated network architectures and services;
- Telecommunications regulatory relief that takes into account operator commitments to broadband deployment schedules and coverage criteria;
- Removal and preemption of unnecessary and artificial barriers new entrants encounter as they seek access to local rights-of-way in order to deploy broadband technologies;
- Selective utilization of the federal government's preemption authority to streamline regulation in instances where a patchwork of state regulations impedes broadband deployment and promotes uncertainty; and
- Support and encouragement for local municipalities to deploy high-speed broadband networks throughout their communities in the form of loan guarantees and other financial incentives that would not overburden the national budget.