

The influence of NGN on our current economic regulatory costing and pricing framework

Philip Young - Competition Finance 8th September 2008 Views expressed are of the author only and should not be taken to represent an Ofcom wide position

Agenda

Why NGN / UK



Reasons why operators choose to implement a NGN

What's happening in the UK

Scale of the change

Gross replacement cost of the network (GRC)

Impact of NGN

Resulting GRC

Impact on the current regulatory framework for costing and pricing

Common position / technology neutral

Changing cost structures

Current LRIC model

Possible impact of NGN technology

Economic Policy discussion topics

Predominant Pricing & Costing points

Why NGN





Cost Savings

Technology improvement

One converged network

Economies of scale & scope

Future services

NGN in the UK

BT state they plan to spend £10bn over the next five years on NGN

End

21CN - our current UK network

BT have already spent a significant amount

Upgrading the core network

One network replaces many



X 5,500

~300 ~100 sites sites

~1k

~15 sites



X 30 million

Scale of the change – illustrative numbers only



Gross replacement costs of current networks

Capital NGN spend

Components being replaced by NGN Equipment



£40 billion £10billion £15billion

Major underlying capital costs remain the same - ranking Cable Duct Transmission equipment Other network equip.. (*Private circuits etc*) Land and Buildings

Op'ex Savings

Impact on the current regulatory framework for costing and pricing



- ERG Common position;
- •Technology neutrality retained
- •Regulatory accounting guidance remains relevant & valid; principles based
- •Changing cost structures will require analysis
 - •i.e. simplified LRIC view

Traditional Network			NGN		
Service A	Service B	Service C	Service A	Service B	Service C
Common costs					
				Common costs	

NRA's will need to consider adapting current modelling and costing approaches.....



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An example of some economic policy discussion topics



Pricing	Costing
Ramsey pricing – willingness to pay / perceived value / elasticity	Modelling methods – Top down v bottom up
Pricing options – bundles / new services / fixed fee v usage	CCA v HCA – CCA accepted, both similar in early years.
Cost orientation – what does it mean in an NGN environment	LRIC v FDC – increments, combinatorial tests, application