**Telecom Landscape, Regulations, Policies & Conformity Assessment**

**PAKISTAN**

**Abstract**

The telecommunications sector is considered as a backbone in the developmental structure of a country, as it facilitates other economic sectors like IT and financial sectors to establish linkages among various sectors of the economy and society as a whole

The presentation provides a brief overview of the telecom landscape of Pakistan. Pakistan Telecom sector, has emerged as one of the fastest growing sector across Asia in the recent years. In a total population of 179 million, there are 129.6 million subscribers of Cellular mobiles, 3 million Fixed lines, 3.3 million wireless connections and a total Teledensity of 75.77%. There are 19.8 million Internet Users in Pakistan. 15.7 million mobile internet users and 2.8 million broadband subscribers.

According to the third Trade Policy Review for Pakistan at the World Trade Organization (WTO) (2008), the telecom sector of Pakistan has been totally transformed as a result of successful reforms. From a monopolistic market of incumbents, Pakistan now has numerous operators offering various services under the regulatory body of Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA).

After the Deregulation Act of 2003 Pakistan now witnesses 14 LDI Operators, 17 Fixed Local Loop licensees, 11 Wireless licenses, 5 infrastructure and 8 Tower Licenses. Every license and policy has standards which are to be followed by the licensees. PTA has the power to prescribe standards for telecommunication equipment and terminal equipment, certify compliance of such equipment with prescribed standards, and issue approvals of terminal equipment and of approved installers.