

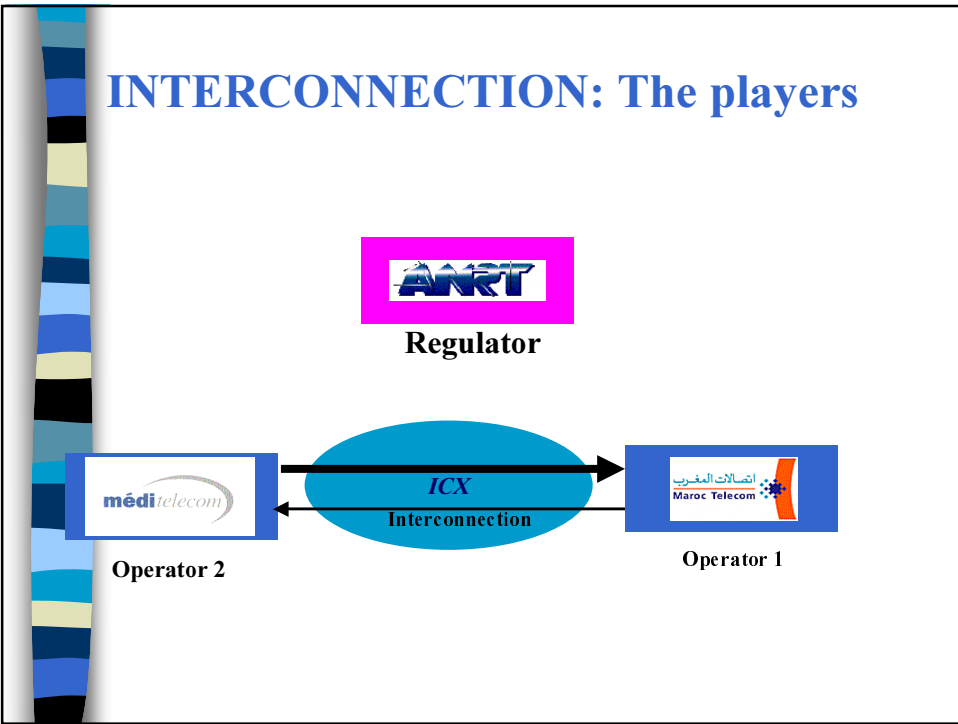


وكالة تنظيم وخدمات اتصالات المغرب
 AGENCE NATIONALE DE RÉGLEMENTATION DES TÉLÉCOMMUNICATIONS



Workshop on Fixed-Mobile Interconnection
PART I
 Interconnection issues and NRA role

Geneva, 20-22 September 2000





The legal link between operators is the interconnection agreement, freely negotiated between them.






WHY INTERCONNECT AGREEMENTS ?

- ➔ Interconnection allows communications to occur across networks, linking competitors, so customers of different networks can communicate with one another.
- ➔ An entrant cannot start business without an interconnect agreement with its competitors.






SECURING GOOD INTERCONNECT ARRANGEMENTS


It 's a fundamental step in creating a liberalised market for three main reasons :

-  Without interconnection, there can be no competition.
-  The interconnect services must be reasonably priced if the entrant is to be able to make a business case to its investors.
-  If the interconnect services and prices simply mirror the structure of the dominant operator 's retail services, the entrant will not have any opportunity to innovate.



NEGOCIATING AN INTERCONNECT AGREEMENT

-  The approach to negotiating an interconnect agreement between the dominant operator and an entrant is the same in most countries.
-  The role of the regulator is to see that an agreement is reached in accordance with the interconnection legislation (decree).
-  The regulator will attempt to resolve a number of dilemmas created by the conflict between the basic principles of regulate interconnection.




Interconnection conflicts can be of two types :

- ➔ - a) Conflicts related to disagreements during interconnection agreement negotiations;
- b) Conflicts post-agreement;

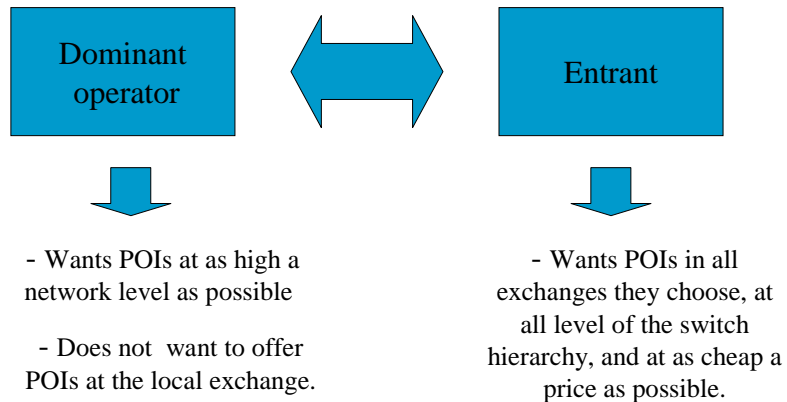
➔ Interconnection conflicts can be technical or non technical.

➔ NRA will always have a positive role to play in conflicts settlement matters.

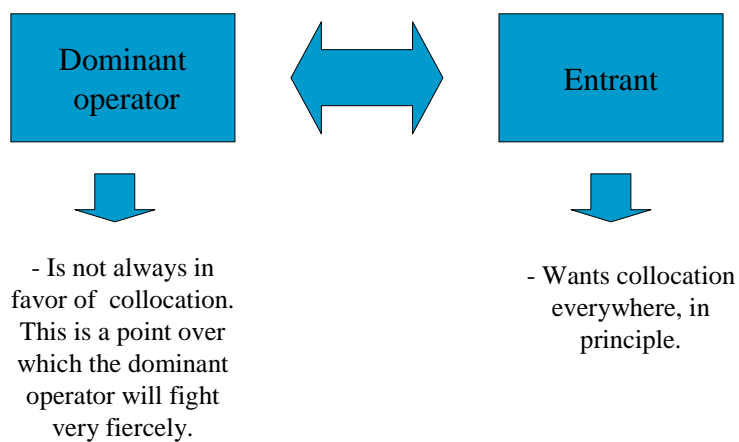


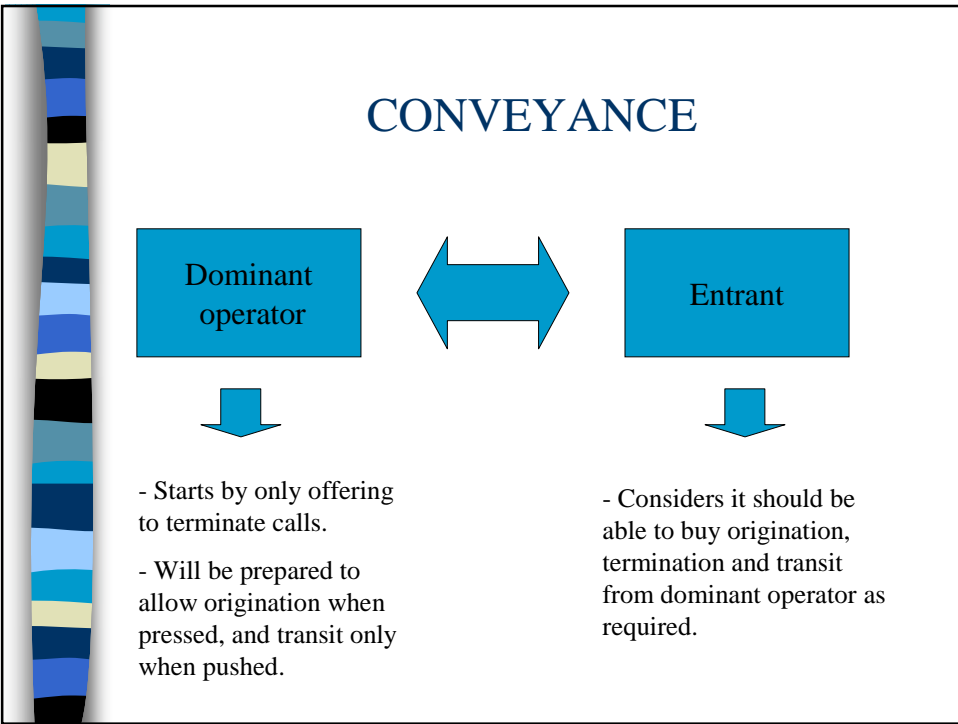
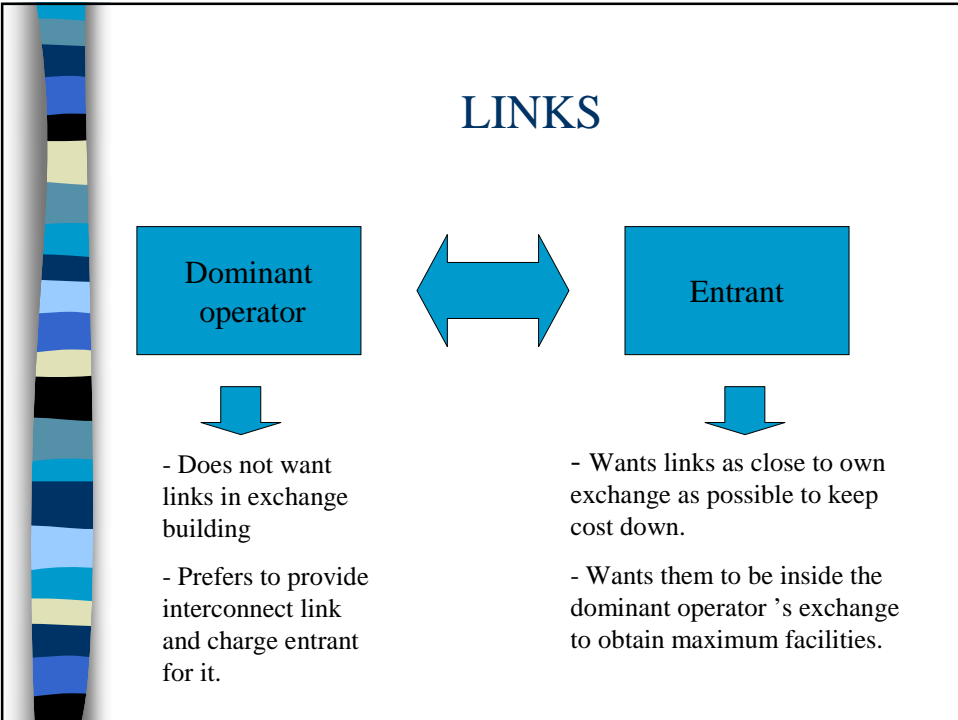
TECHNICAL ISSUES

Point Of Interconnection (POIs)

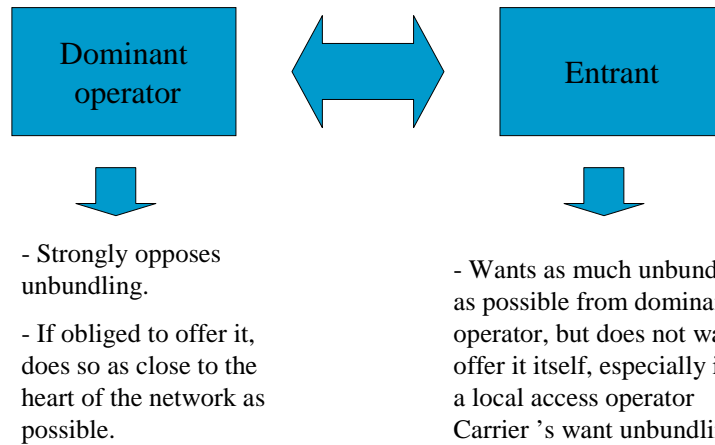


COLLOCATION

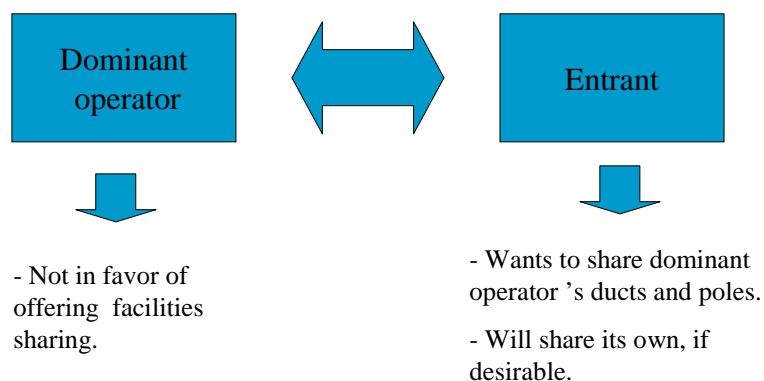




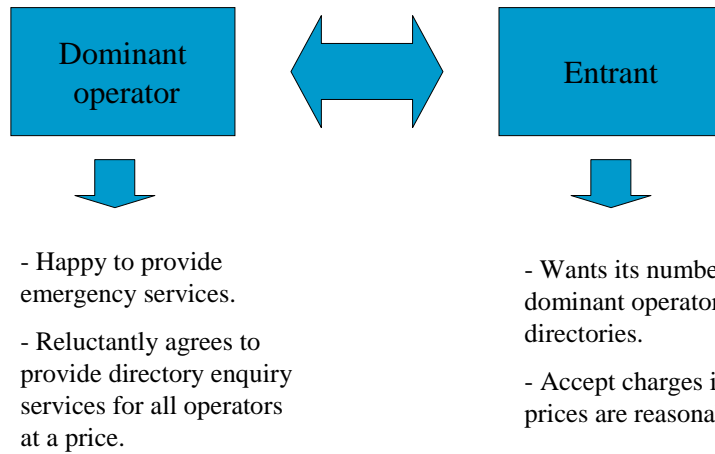
UNBUNDLING



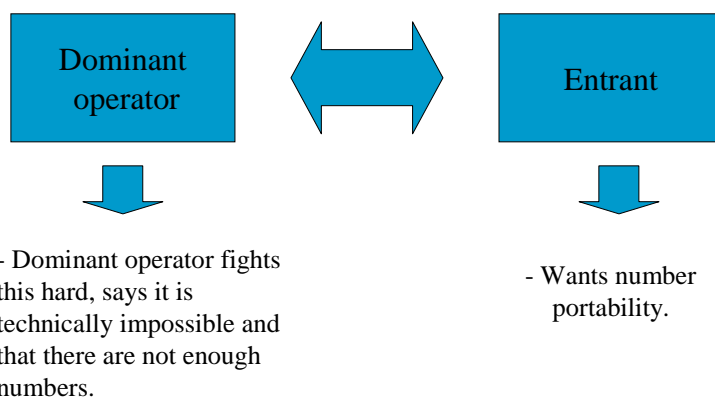
FACILITIES SHARING - TOWERS, DUCTS AND POLE.



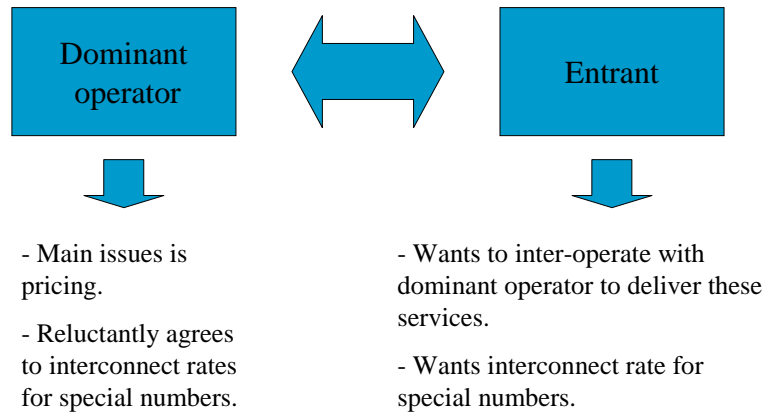
ANCILLARY SERVICES



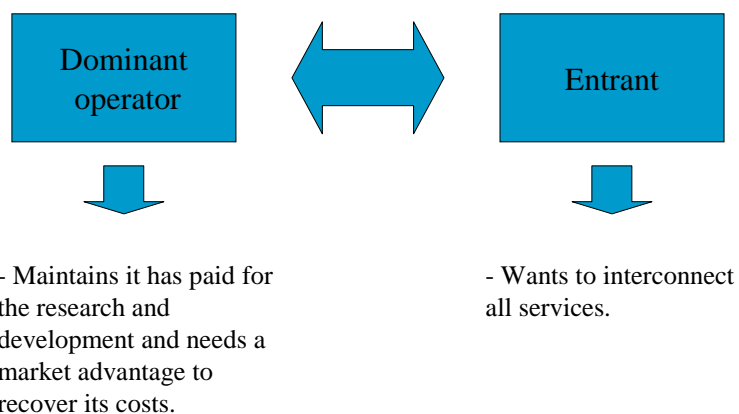
NUMBER PORTABILITY



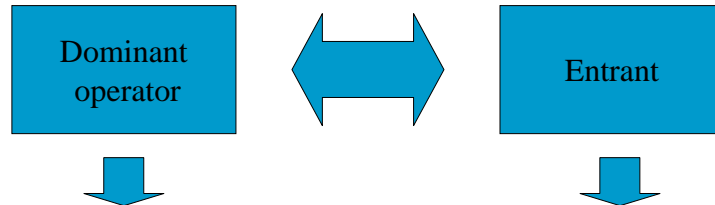
VALUE-ADDED AND PREMIUM-RATE SERVICES.



NEW SERVICES



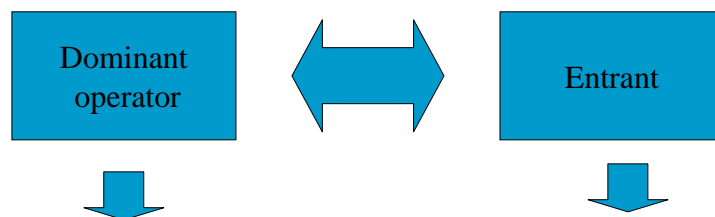
INTEROPERABILITY



- Says interoperability violates the integrity of the network.
- Defines a limited range of signalling and types of switch with which it will interconnect.

- Wants to connect as much as possible.

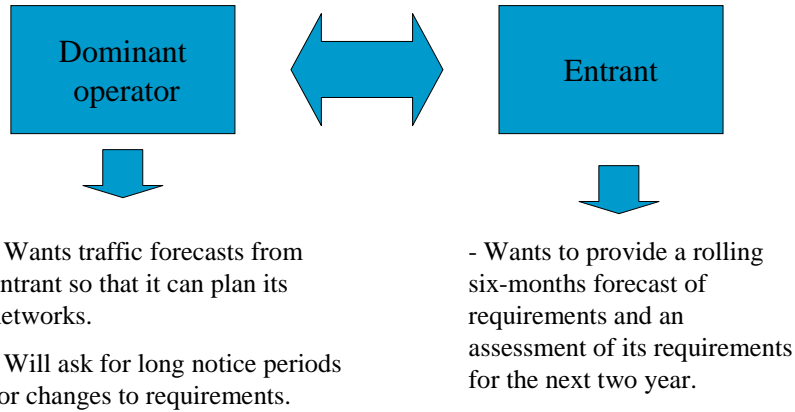
SCHEDULES AND TESTING



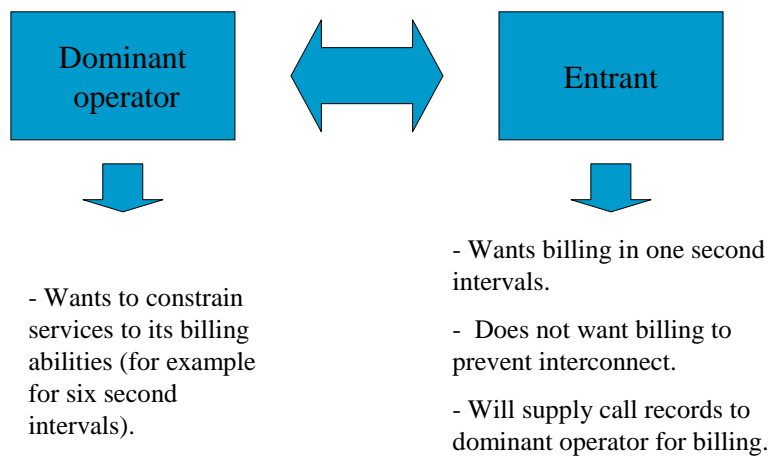
- Asks to test every single switch.
- Will allow the process to drift along until the entrant forces it to complete it.

- Wants the minimum of testing in the shortest possible time.
- Insiste on setting schedule.

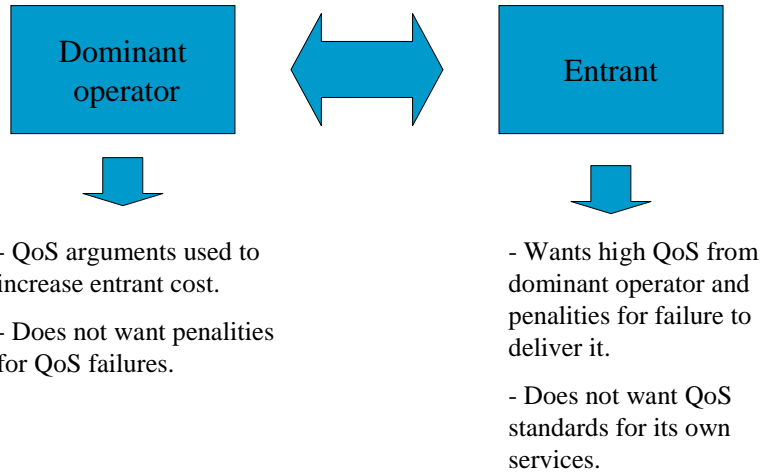
TRAFFIC FORECASTING AND RECONFIGURATION



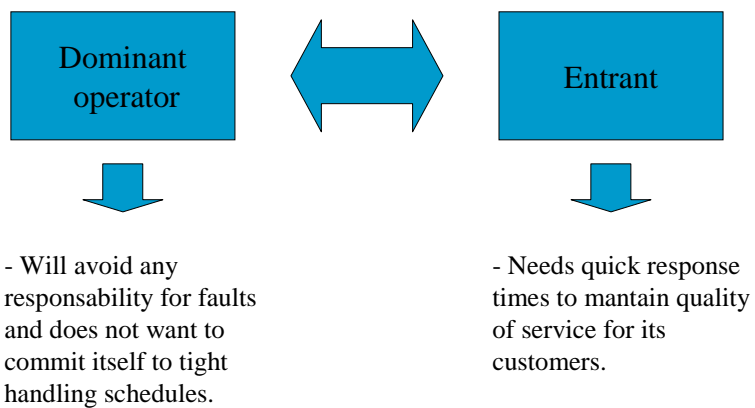
BILLING ARRANGEMENT

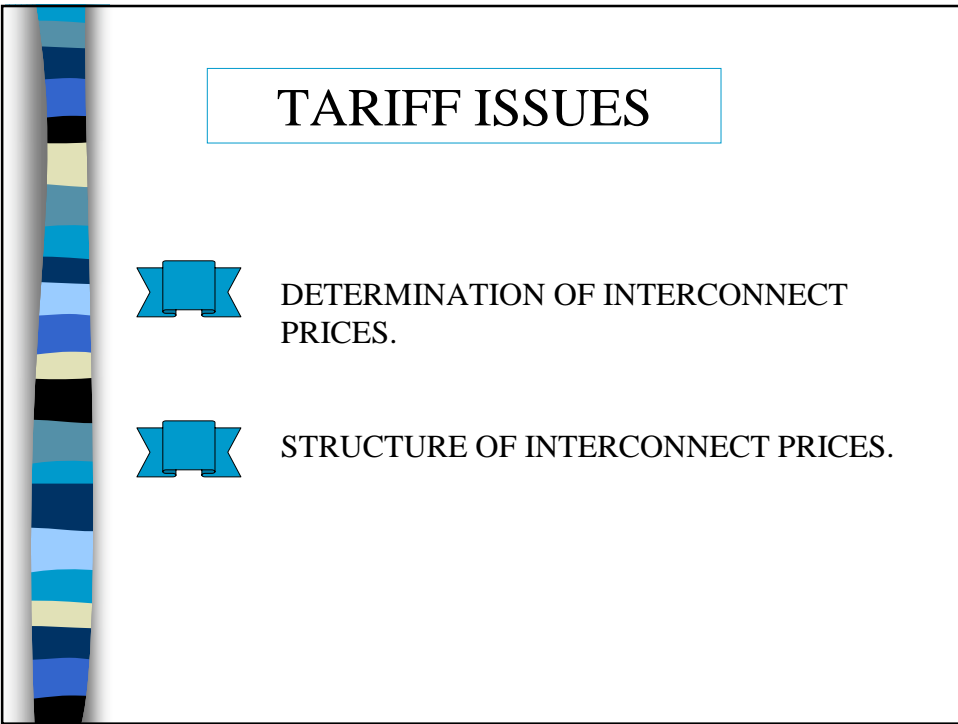
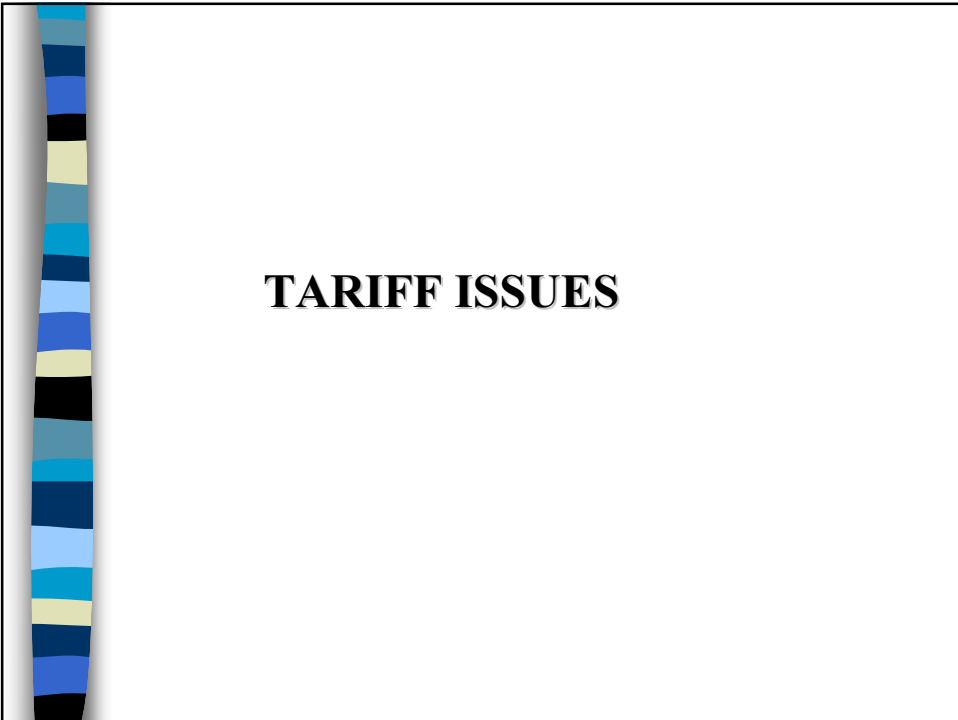


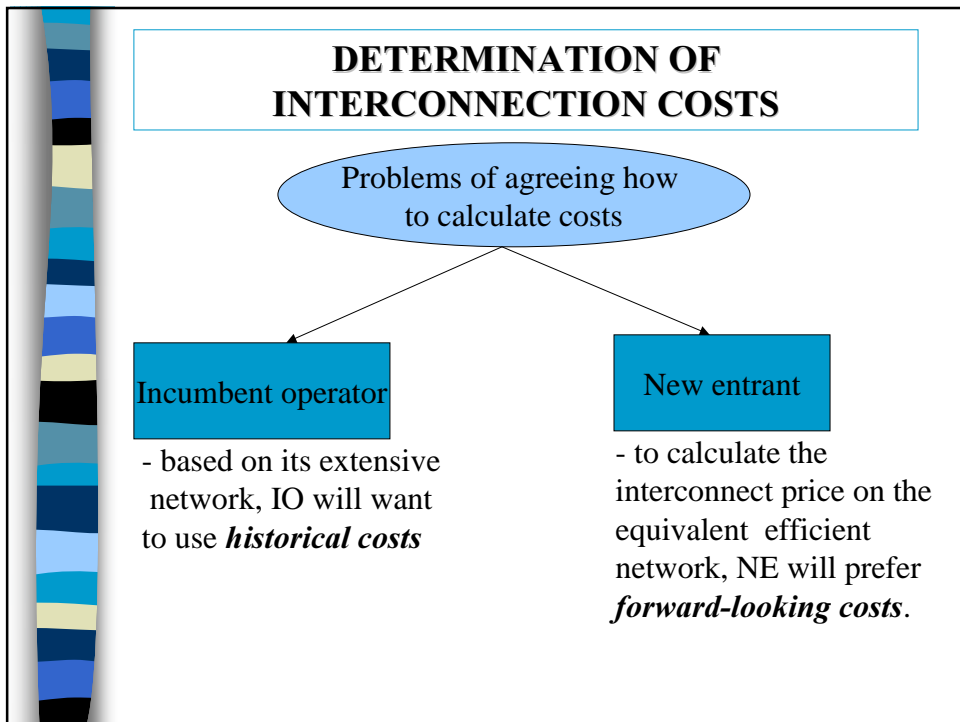
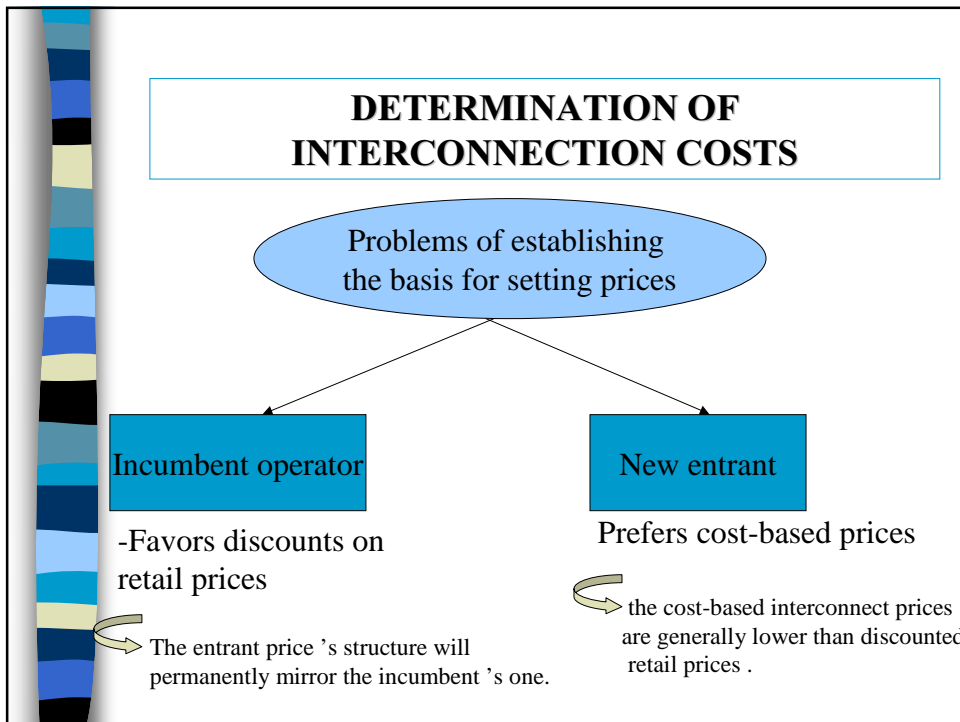
QUALITY OF SERVICE (QoS)



FAULT REPORTING AND HANDLING



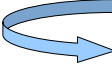


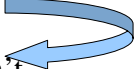




DETERMINATION OF INTERCONNECTION COSTS

Accounting separation issues

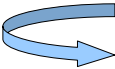
 New entrants do not have access to the incumbent operator's accounts so as to analyze them in sufficient detail.

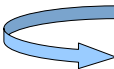
- The incumbent operator generally didn't  develop the necessary cost accounting system for allocating costs to different elements of the network.
- Incumbent operator does not want to publish costs.
- NRA should audit operators accounts.

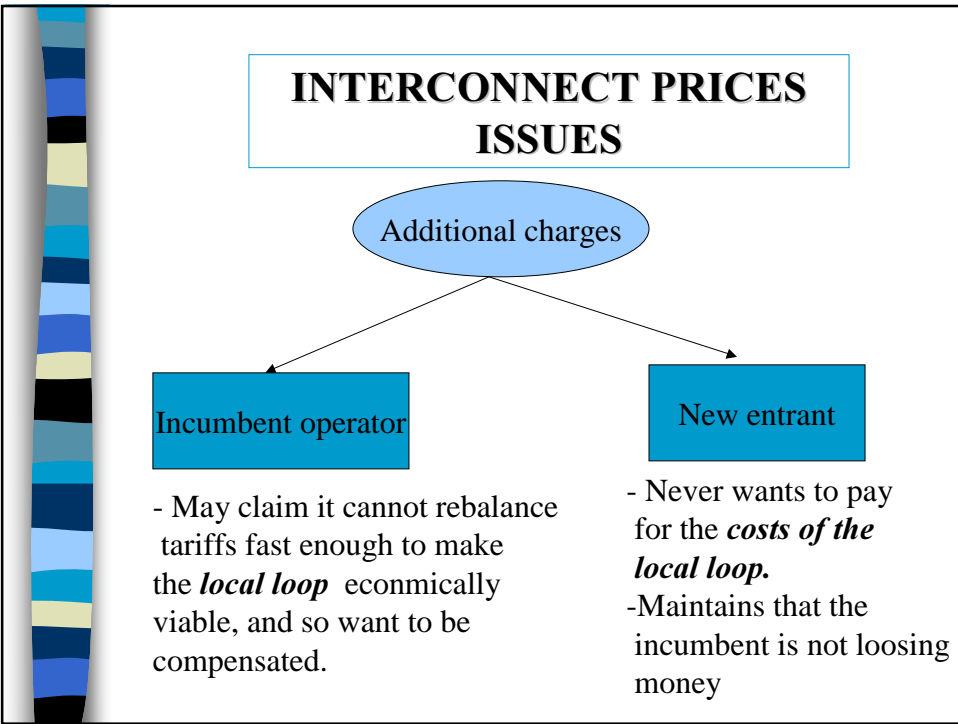
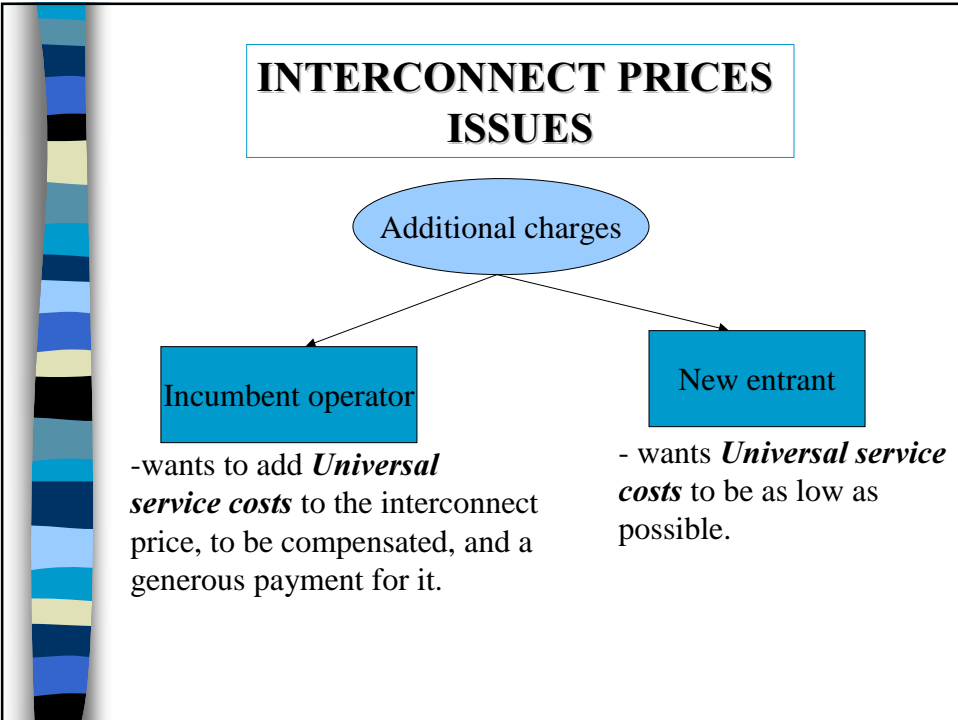


INTERCONNECT PRICES ISSUES

Many issues surround methods for *structuring interconnect prices*

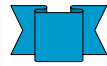
 Dominant operator wants the highest prices, and prefers usage-based charges.

 New entrant wants capacity-based pricing for high traffic volumes and per-second prices for low traffic volumes

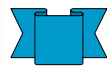




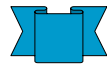
REGULATORY TOOLS FOR PROMOTING FAIR INTERCONNECTION



Regulators should supervise the interconnection process during negotiating the interconnect agreement and the execution of the interconnect obligations.



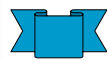
Regulators have to ensure that the interconnect agreement is equitable to all parties.



Regulators should verify regularly that operators use legitimate tactics in their approach to the negotiations.



REGULATORY TOOLS FOR PROMOTING FAIR INTERCONNECTION



Regulator should ensure :



Good quality of service.



Reasonably priced service for consumers.




Development of innovative services.




Fair competition.



REGULATORY TOOLS FOR PROMOTING FAIR INTERCONNECTION

 The role of regulator in the interconnection process is:

 To set up reference norms that parties should respect.

 To approve interconnect agreements.

 To resolve interconnection disputes.



CONCLUSION

In order to insure a healthy interconnection process regulators :

- need wide ranging expertise
- Must be independent of government and commercial interests
- Must be prepared to new challenges