

Foreword by Prof. Christopher L. Tucci

You are reading a book that is going to change the way you think about telecommunications. Telecoms has been fighting a long, slow slide from the days in which national telecoms monopolies made massive infrastructure investments and recouped them by charging high prices to businesses and consumers who had few alternatives. As these fixed-cost recovery issues have become more and more salient in recent decades with increasing deregulation and competition, there has been a shift toward mobile services as a way of adding additional revenue streams, which has helped, but recent trends indicate that telecoms companies will probably need to embrace completely new and unfamiliar business models within the next ten years as 5G continues its diffusion and 6G comes online. Both competition in telecoms services and complementor business models (such as over-the-top services) will put increasing pressure on telecoms operators.

Indeed, the rapid increase in digitalization has had an outsize impact on the way we work and live, as well as the way we communicate as

individuals and as organizations. With the global pandemic, new work practices have emerged that require the ability of large numbers of people to work remotely and effectively—individually and in groups—while communicating using high-bandwidth video and other Internet applications. All of this has put increasing demands on how technologies, businesses, and services are developed in the information and communications technology (ICT) space, while at the same time pressuring ICT business models and business ecosystems. Many of the services that were previously provided by mobile network operators (MNOs) now face competition from the public Internet, challenging the business models of domestic connectivity providers. This evolution, intertwined with technology advances and regulatory bodies, builds pressure on regulators and policymakers, who must consider their responsibilities in navigating new market dynamics for the greater good of society, and who need to balance innovation promotion with protecting the public in the shorter term.

Amidst all of this complexity and co-evolution of markets, technologies, and regulations, one might sensibly ask what future world of ICT technologies, policies, businesses, and business ecosystems are on the horizon? With this edited volume, *The Changing World of Mobile Communications - 5G, 6G and the Future of Digital Services*, the editors and authors, who are among the world's leading ICT, mobile communications, and business model specialists, make a bold and critical attempt to answer this question by combining the three perspectives of business models, ICT technologies, and technology policy in an engaging and logical fashion.

In developing this narrative, the book provides cutting-edge knowledge, overviews, and unique insights into the central ICT developments that have and will have immense impact on the business, technological, and regulatory perspectives of mobile communications. In addition, the book brings forth future avenues for ICT research and mobile communications developments to guide both industry leaders, managers, researchers, and policymakers. It is difficult to predict exactly when the traditional telecoms business model will reach a breaking point, but this book will help you make an informed judgment about how soon

that day will come, and what some of the options are in the new telecommunications ecosystem space.

Prof. Christopher L. Tucci
Professor of Digital Strategy
and Innovation
Imperial College
London, UK