

Policy Choices for the Digital Economy

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Caribbean Priorities

- Connecting the unconnected
- Full participation in the Digital Economy
- 5G & Gigabit networks

Key Question

Will 2020 – 2030 be:

- the Caribbean Digital Decade or
- the lost Digital Decade?



Tipping Point – Big Tech now dominate networks

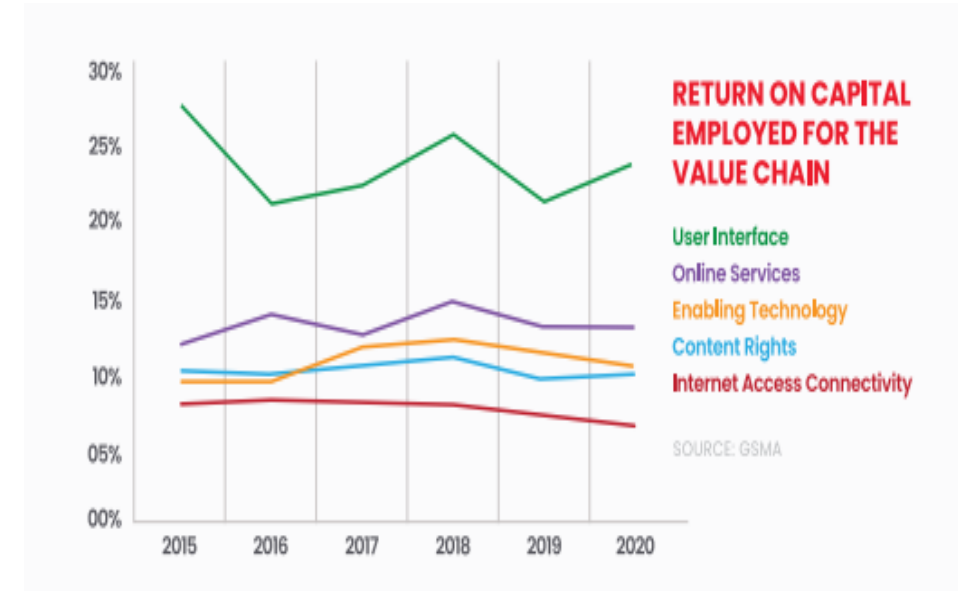
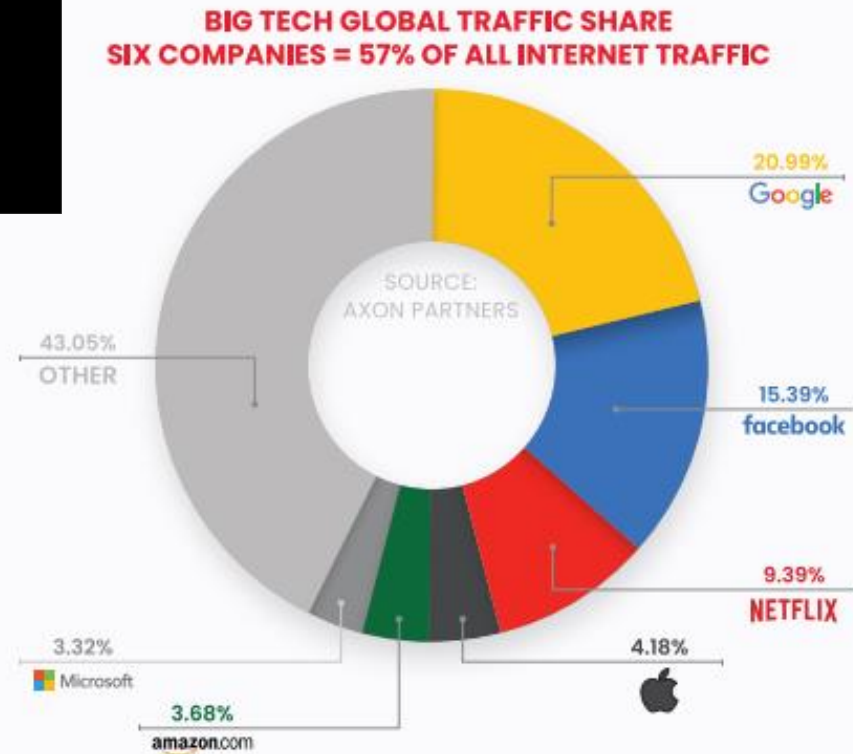


TABLE 1 ESTIMATED TOTAL COSTS ATTRIBUTABLE TO OTT TRAFFIC FOR FIXED AND MOBILE

	FIXED	MOBILE
Weighted average cost per subscriber	€40 - €47	€43 - €46
Annualised OTT costs across Europe	€8 billion - €10 billion	€28 billion - €30 billion

OTTs earn \$ billions in revenues in the Caribbean annually
Operators investing \$250 million annually to support Big Tech
Affordability – prices cannot keep rising to fund OTT profits
Investment squeeze for new networks

Global Debate

Asian Infrastructure Development Bank:

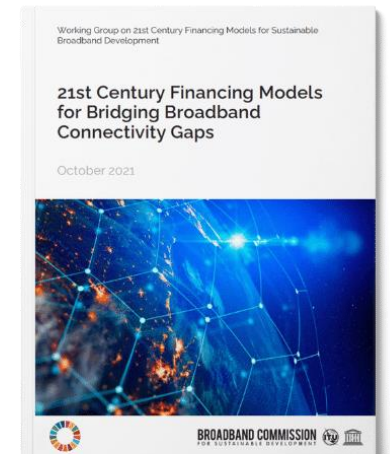
‘the telecommunications industry – which is the main funder of 5G, fibre expansion, and other digital infrastructure developments – cannot independently raise the financial resources needed for network expansion over the next decade’

Broadband Commission:

- All companies who derive benefit from the use of broadband infrastructure should contribute towards the cost of its deployment.
- Australia News Media Bargaining Code a potential regulatory model

Florence School of Regulation:

‘if online platforms are allowed to side-line traditional network operators, it may mean that vital investment in building and maintaining the infrastructures on which these markets are founded becomes unsustainable in the long-term.’



EU – Policy



Europe's 5G strategy in the Digital Decade:

Aims to ensure that all European households are covered by a Gigabit network by 2030, with all populated areas covered by 5G

Draft Declaration on Digital Rights and Principles for the Digital Decade:

All market actors, including platforms, must assume their social responsibility in contributing to the cost of public goods, services and infrastructures

Digital Decade Policy Programme:

All market players should make a fair and proportionate contribution

European Commission:

It is important to stimulate private investors with a clear policy framework enabling new investment models optimizing individual return on investment

Caribbean Policy Choices

'Big tech conquers internet infrastructure, wipes out telco providers' –
Techzine

*Tech giants are battling it out to supply the global internet - here's why that's
a problem – The Conversation*

- Big Tech are leveraging their dominance and resources
- Canto Code on Open Internet – Big Tech weaponising Net Neutrality by refusal to deal with Operators
- A global debate on how regulation can address this market failure
- Failure of regulation and policy too : OTTs now are of systemic importance & essential parts of internet infrastructure but they are unregulated
- Australian 'News Media and Digital Platforms Bargaining Act' obliges Big Tech giants to negotiate and agree commercial terms with local publishers and broadcasters
- How do we ensure 2020-2030 is the Caribbean Digital Decade?