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**AT IX TALLER INTERNACIONAL DE REGULACIÓN:
“TENDENCIAS Y RETOS DEL SECTOR TIC”
CARTAGENA DE INDIAS, COLOMBIA
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Overview

I. The Structure and Functions of the FCC

**II. How the FCC Has Exercised Its Powers:
Infrastructure and Spectrum Policies**

III. Current Issues at the FCC



I. The FCC's Structure and Functions

- Independent agency
- Five Commissioners – nominated by President, 5 year terms, only three from the President's political party
- Structure means more informed decisions, consensus

I. The FCC's Structure and Functions, continued

- Scope of authority is broad
- Congress intended to centralize authority
- Especially important in era of convergence

I. The FCC's Structure and Functions, continued

- Multiple Bureaus and Offices assist Commissioners
- Bureaus: some focused on particular areas; some are general (like Enforcement Bureau)
- Offices: provide support, like legal advice (Office of General Counsel, Office of Engineering and Technology)

II. How the FCC Has Exercised Its Powers

Infrastructure

Spectrum

Infrastructure

- Wireless
- Wireline
- Cable
- Satellite
- Gigabit entry: Google and follow-on entrants

Infrastructure

How did this happen?

- United States regulatory framework: instead of control, a focus on giving private sector incentives to invest
- Remove barriers to infrastructure investment, rather than picking winners and losers

Infrastructure Example 1: Internet

- 20-year policy of “light-touch regulation”
 - 2002: applied to cable
 - 2005: applied to telephone
 - 2007: applied to wireless
- Results:
 - 2001-2009, Americans with broadband jumped from 6% to 63%
 - Price of wireline broadband fell by 50%

Infrastructure Example 2: Video

- Early 2000s: entry was difficult
- FCC eased barriers to entry:
convergence now reality

Infrastructure Example 3: Wireless

- “No en mi patio trasero”
- FCC streamlined regulatory requirements: “shot clock”
- More to come: small cells, for instance

Spectrum

- Flexible use policy
- Competitive auctions: simple, transparent, market-driven
- Secondary market
- Disaggregation and partition

III. Current Issues at the FCC

- Freeing up more spectrum for mobile broadband
 - National Broadband Plan goals: 300 MHz by 2015, 500 MHz by 2020
 - H Block auction completed earlier this year
 - AWS-3 auction scheduled for later this year (65 MHz of spectrum in the 1695–1710 MHz, 1755–1780 MHz, and 2155–2180 MHz bands)
 - Broadcast television incentive auction in 2015 (600 MHz band)
 - 5 GHz unlicensed spectrum: gigabit WiFi
- IP Transition

Conclusion

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