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Japan (country regulation overview)

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Abstracts

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The Japanese telecoms market is one of the most advanced in the world: it has a highly developed mobile market and is one of the leading markets for fiber network development. This is in part due to the balanced role played by the regulator, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (MIC). The MIC, working closely with industry players, has led a strong industry development policy with major ICT initiatives to develop infrastructure, competition, and industry usage.

It is a measure of Japan's sophistication that its fiber unbundling regime has already been in place for several years. Later in 2010, Japan looks set to see the world's first widespread implementations of LTE mobile network technology – a key example of the MIC facilitating new technologies and seeking to maintain the nation's status as a world ICT leader.

Japan's regulatory framework has been stable and predictable in recent years. The Japanese regulator generally strikes a good balance, intervening where necessary without overplaying its role or hampering competition or investment. As a result, consumers are well served, with affordable, competitive markets for both fixed and mobile telecoms services.

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