Market context

After taking almost five years to gain approval in Congress, President Bolsonaro signed the decree for Brazil’s so-called “Antenna Law.” The legislation aims to streamline the bureaucracy behind the installation of telecommunications antennas. According to CONEXIS, the national telecoms association, more than 4,000 requests for mobile antenna permits were awaiting approval from municipalities as of May 2020. Together, they represent about 2 billion reais (US $373 million) in investments by the telecoms sector.

Policy or regulatory action

The legislation was considered essential by the telecommunications sector, principally to simplify and unify the guidelines on installation of new antennas, and enactment of the law was necessary to regulate it. Implementation of the law at the municipal level is the final challenge, as cities in Brazil have considerable autonomy and still must adapt their legislation to fit the national objectives on antenna deployment.

Why this is good practice

Despite what is still missing, the Antenna Law was a big step towards a national strategy that enables infrastructure deployment as a key element of the digital transformation, especially considering the increased infrastructure density that will be needed for the 5G expansion.

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