

Roundtable on Policy as Enabler or Inhibitor

Government policy and regulation can be powerful enablers or inhibitors of IoT.

Government policies can foster innovation and investment in IoT thru a variety of mechanisms including investment incentives, making government resources available, creating market demand by being a large first-mover user, streamlining regulation and reducing barriers to deployment.

Government also can stifle innovation and investment in IoT thru burdensome and unnecessary regulation, even if well intentioned.

There are important public policy issues raised by IoT including privacy, security, consumer protection and competition.

How governments balance policies fostering innovation and investment with regulation designed to prevent unwanted behavior and outcomes will determine whether government will be an enabler or inhibitor to IoT.

In what ways can policy and other government actions facilitate and enable IoT?

- Are there specific government policies that can drive IoT adoption?
- Are there regulations in other sectors (e.g., food and water safety) that can be better met (more reliable/lower cost) by IoT applications?
- Does government control any inputs to IoT deployment (e.g., radio spectrum) that they can make available to facilitate deployment and adoption?
- Should governments adopt/require IoT standards?

What government policies/regulations, if any, inhibit IoT innovation/deployment/adoption?

- Do privacy and security regulations inhibit IoT deployment?
- How do medical device regulations affect IoT deployment?
- Does rate-of-return price regulation in the electric utility industry help or hurt deployment of IoT technologies?
- Would IoT specific consumer protection regulation speed or slow IoT deployment and adoption?
- Are there international barriers to the dissemination of IoT applications?

Beyond policy and regulation, what, if anything, can governments do to promote IoT development, deployment and adoption?

- Is there a role for government to fund applied (or basic) research related to the IoT?
- Are there global applications of the IoT that requires international harmonization?
- Should governments become early adopters of IoT technology/applications? If so, what uses/applications will accelerate IoT innovation the most?