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THEORETICAL ISSUES IN FORMING THE STRUCTURE OF FINANCIAL RESOURCES FOR FINANCING INVESTMENTS IN TELECOMMUNICATIONS INFRASTRUCTURE

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In most cases, the issue of investing in telecommunications infrastructure is interpreted as a problem of attracting funds. In reality, however, the core of the problem lies not in the volume of funds but in their composition. This is because the same amount of investment, when financed from different sources, produces fundamentally different outcomes in terms of project value, debt burden, managerial independence, reinvestment capacity, and financial stability. In this sense, the central question in telecommunications infrastructure is not "how much resource is needed?" but rather "which types of resources should be attracted, and in what proportions?"

This question becomes particularly acute in the telecommunications sector. Investments in this field are characterized by high capital intensity, long asset lifetimes, and rapidly evolving technology. As a result, additional capital may be required for a new technological stage even before the original investment has been fully recovered. Hence, the structure of financial resources here is not merely a financing instrument but a strategic factor that determines the pace of network development.

Although classical financial theory has developed important rules concerning capital structure, in the context of telecommunications infrastructure these rules manifest themselves not directly but through sector-specific characteristics. Here, the alignment between the long lifespan of assets and the maturity of financing sources, the tension between strategic significance and commercial returns, and

the balance between the necessity of state participation and market discipline all become decisive. For this reason, forming the structure of financial resources for financing investments in telecommunications infrastructure should be treated as an independent theoretical problem.

The problem of financial resource structure in telecommunications infrastructure can be explained through three principal tensions.

The first tension is the mismatch between asset lifespan and financing maturity. For example, facilities such as backbone optical networks or data centers generate returns over the long term. If such assets are financed through short- or medium-term expensive resources, the debt burden intensifies before the project has begun to generate its full income. Therefore, in telecommunications infrastructure, the capital structure must, above all, be aligned with the economic life cycle of the asset.

The second tension is the divergence between commercial efficiency and strategic significance. Some network facilities yield rapid and stable returns. Others, although offering slower economic payback, are essential for national digital security, territorial coverage, social equity, or public administration. If both categories of project are evaluated against the same financial criteria, the result is either that strategic projects are sidelined or that commercial projects are inefficiently nationalized. Accordingly, in forming the structure of financial resources, it is essential to differentiate projects according to their economic and strategic functions.

The third tension is the contradiction between debt discipline and innovative flexibility. Debt financing accelerates development, but it comes with a strict repayment schedule. The telecommunications sector, however, demands continuous modernization. If the capital structure is built on excessive borrowing, the operator may lose the capacity for future technological renewal. The structure

must therefore be formed in such a way that, while financing current infrastructure, it also preserves a financial reserve for the next phase of upgrades. From this standpoint, three theoretical principles can be proposed for forming the structure of financial resources in telecommunications infrastructure.

The first principle is the principle of maturity matching. Long-lived assets should be financed through long-term resources. This is even more important than minimizing the cost of capital, since maturity mismatches sharply increase financial pressure.

The second principle is the principle of functional differentiation. A single source should not be selected for all projects. For revenue-generating facilities, market sources should prevail; for strategic facilities, mixed resources; and for socially significant projects, supportive financing with state participation should take priority.

The third principle is the principle of preserving reinvestment capacity. The financial resource structure must be built so that current investment does not foreclose future modernization opportunities. This is particularly important for areas such as 4G/5G, cloud infrastructure, data centers, and optical networks, which become obsolete quickly or require continuous expansion.

To systematize these ideas, the following original matrix is proposed.

Table 1 Matrix for forming the structure of financial resources in financing investments in telecommunications infrastructure[1]

Project profile	Cash flow characteristics	Level of strategic significance	Recommended resource structure	Expected financial outcome
Fast-payback commercial project	Stable and predictable	Medium	Internal funds + market debt + bonds	Acceleration of capital turnover
Long-term network expansion project	Slow to materialize	High	Long-term debt + state guarantees + blended financing	Ensuring growth while easing debt pressure
Territorial coverage expansion project	Commercially limited	Very high	State resources + PPP + concessional financing	Compensating social and strategic impact
Technological modernization project	Relatively stable but requires reinvestment	High	Refinancing + leasing + internal funds	Maintaining flexibility
Digital platforms and value-added services project	Variable, market-dependent	Medium	Private equity + partnership investment + limited debt	Risk distribution and acceleration of innovation

This matrix demonstrates that forming the structure of financial resources in telecommunications infrastructure cannot be reduced to the "debt-to-equity ratio." The resource structure here is determined by at least four criteria: the nature of cash flows, strategic significance, technological cycle, and risk-bearing capacity. From this perspective, the optimal financial structure in

[1]Compiled by the author.

telecommunications is not the cheapest aggregate of capital, but a resource architecture aligned with development objectives.

A further important scientific conclusion follows: in telecommunications infrastructure, the structure of financial resources is not static but a dynamic category dependent on the life cycle. At the initial stage, state or long-term debt sources may predominate; later, as cash flows stabilize, the share of market sources may grow. Thus, capital structure should not be set once and for all, but should be reviewed in stages - a methodological approach particularly relevant to the telecom sector.

It is also incorrect either to absolutize or to wholly reject the role of the state in forming the financial resource structure of this sector. State participation may be justified for strategic and low-return facilities, but such involvement must not weaken market discipline, cost transparency, or investment efficiency. In this sense, the purpose of state-backed financing should not be to displace private capital but to mitigate risk and catalyze development in areas where the market alone cannot deliver.

Building on the above, the question of forming the structure of financial resources for financing investments in telecommunications infrastructure proves to be much broader than a mere problem of capital attraction. In this field, the structure must correspond not only to the economic returns of a project but also to its strategic significance, its technological renewal needs, and its risk profile.

On this basis, the following specific conclusions can be drawn.

First, there is no single, universal financial resource structure for telecommunications infrastructure. The capital structure must be differentiated according to the type of project.

Second, the optimality of the financial resource structure in this sector is determined not by selecting the cheapest source, but by aligning asset maturity, cash flow, and risk burden with one another.

Third, leaving telecommunications facilities of strategic and social importance to purely market-based financing is incorrect both scientifically and practically; in such cases, blended and supportive models are required.

Fourth, in the telecommunications sector, the financial resource structure is not permanent and must be reformulated in line with the project life cycle.

Hence, the principal finding of this study is that, in financing investments in telecommunications infrastructure, the structure of financial resources should be formed as a flexible financial architecture that simultaneously ensures stability, growth, and strategic development.

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