



ADVANCING GLOBAL COMMUNICATIONS

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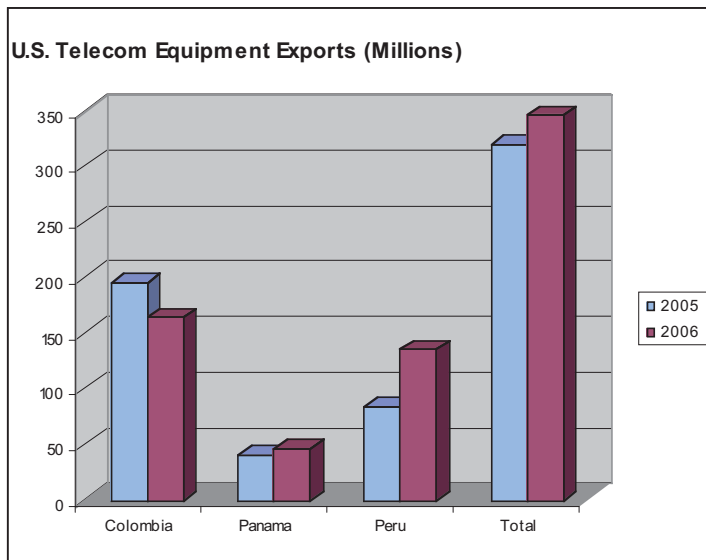
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TIA Position Paper: U.S. Trade Agreements with Colombia, Panama, and Peru

The approval and implementation of the U.S. trade agreements with Colombia, Panama, and Peru will benefit information, communication, and technology (ICT) companies by establishing greater market access, assuring a rules-based and predictable business climate, and encouraging further bilateral investment, contributing to economic growth and political stability in the region.

Together, ICT markets in Colombia, Panama, and Peru are valued at \$7.6 billion. These countries' ICT markets have grown rapidly in recent years.



Colombia's, Panama's and Peru's wireless subscribers, Internet users, and Broadband subscribers respectively grew 353 percent, 277, percent, and an incredible 1560 percent between 2000 and 2005.

Such growth has created export opportunities for U.S. ICT providers. U.S. telecommunications equipment exports to Colombia, Panama, and Peru totaled \$346 million in 2005, an increase of 8 percent over the previous year. A large percentage of that growth can be attributed to wireless and broadband-related equipment.

Because there is little domestic production of telecommunications equipment in these countries, a liberal trade environment is important for

ensuring continued growth. Such growth will only facilitate investment in other sectors as telecom infrastructure systems are upgraded. In the long run, this will generate jobs and contribute to economic stability in the region.

TIA urges Congress to pass the U.S. trade promotion agreements with Colombia, Panama, and Peru. These agreements will provide substantial benefits to TIA members, facilitating investment in the region's telecommunications sector and guaranteeing market access for ICT goods and services.

About TIA

TIA is a leading trade association for the information and communications technology (ICT) industry, with approximately 600 member companies that manufacture or supply the products and services used in global communications. TIA represents its members on the full range of public policy issues affecting the industry, forges consensus on industry standards, and helps its members develop new business in foreign markets. Together, our industry generates revenues totaling over \$900 billion in the United States and over \$3 trillion worldwide.

