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**COMPTEL Commends USTR for Efforts to Address International  
Telecommunications Market Barriers**

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** – COMPTEL, the leading trade association for the competitive telecommunications industry, today praised the Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) for its actions to identify and address international market barriers to entry that U.S. telecommunications services and equipment providers encounter. The USTR recently announced the results of its [2010 annual review of telecom trade agreements](#) pursuant to Section 1377 of the Omnibus Trade and Competitiveness Act of 1998, 19 U.S.C. § 3106 (Section 1377).

Each year, COMPTEL is afforded the opportunity to provide comments to the USTR about its members' experiences in a number of countries which have undertaken specific commitments with regard to telecommunications service as part of their World Trade Organization (WTO) and other trade agreement obligations. [COMPTEL's December 14, 2009, comments](#) identified countries in which COMPTEL members are doing business and encountering significant market barriers.

In its 2010 report, the USTR acknowledges a number of COMPTEL's concerns. Specifically, in Germany, the report notes the failure of the German regulator to require incumbent provider Deutsche Telekom to provide access to various elements of its transmission capacity at wholesale prices. In India, the USTR acknowledges issues with potentially burdensome encryption requirements and the need to balance the way that U.S. telecommunications companies can effectively protect information while respecting security concerns of the Indian government. The USTR also noted a myriad of difficulties that COMPTEL members face in the Chinese market, including a lack of transparency and failure to meet WTO commitments in a timely manner. And finally, the USTR recognizes issues related to the lack of dominant carrier regulation in Mexico.

"We are pleased to work with the USTR in an effort to promote true competition in communications markets around the globe," said Jerry James. "We appreciate the Trade Representative's work on market-access barriers that our members continually face, such as access to wholesale transmission capacity and excessive fixed-to-mobile termination rates, as well as the new issues our members are experiencing as they expand into new markets."

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**About COMPTEL**

*Based in Washington, D.C., COMPTEL is the leading industry association representing competitive communications service providers and their supplier partners. COMPTEL members are entrepreneurial companies driving technological*

*innovation and creating economic growth through competitive voice, video, and data offerings and the development and deployment of next-generation, IP-based networks and services. COMPTEL advances its members' interests through trade shows, networking, education, and policy advocacy before Congress, the Federal Communications Commission and the courts. COMPTEL works to ensure that competitive communications providers can continue to offer lower prices, better service, and greater innovation to consumers. For more information, visit [www.comptel.org](http://www.comptel.org).*