140 thousand new phone lines are activated every month

Contributed by Patrick Cornwell
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After the aperture of mobile telecomunications in Costa Rica, consequence of CAFTA, around 140 thousand new mobile lines are activated every month in the country.

The aperture marked the arrival of foreign companies Claro y Movistar, virtual operators Fullmóvil and Tuyo, and a greater dynamism by state phone company Kölbi, which has generated more phone lines that people in Costa Rica.

In February 2012, mobile telephony penetration had a rate of 103%, compared to January 2012 it was 101%, as announced by Hannia Vega, Telecomunication Secretary. It means that there over 4,5 million mobile lines in Costa Rica, although the number of active lines is still unknown, since telcos haven't released the data.

The forecast by the Costarican Government is that the sale will be stable once the mobile penetration rate gets to approximately 120%; which means 12 mobile lines per every 10 people, which will happen within the next two years.

In order to achieve that goal, the next step in the aperture process is the generation of content that will allow to take better advantage of the installed network capacity. Telcos will associate with other companies to offer services like entertainment, information, culture and others.

The aperture officially started last June, and foreign telcos Claro and Movistar started offering services on November 2011, marking a new era in the mobile services in Costa Rica.