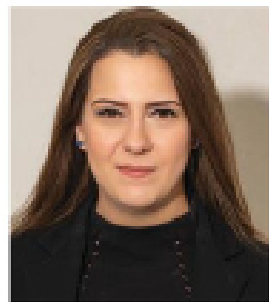


# If you build communications infrastructure, tech will come

In recent weeks, Miami Mayor Francis Suarez has been working overtime to position Miami as THE destination for any tech company looking for a new place to set down roots.



**J. Fernandez Ibarra**

Mayor Suarez has been using Twitter to make his case, sharing countless Tweets highlighting his message that Miami, the Magic City, is the future of the tech industry and his message seems to be working. Leaders in the tech community have joined Mr. Suarez in reimagining Miami as the perfect place for the tech community.

Several high-profile companies that have moved to Miami have joined with

## The Writer

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Mayor Suarez, civic groups and stakeholders to amplify the siren call even further. Suddenly, it seems our area's longstanding desire to leverage tech to transform and modernize our economy is possible.

We strongly support the mayor's goal and are "all in" when it comes to making this shared vision a reality. To capture this momentum, we need to enhance connectivity to leverage technology and supercharge our economy.

Maintaining a robust communications infrastructure is a requirement for success in a rapidly changing global economy. Similar to railroads, highways, and airports generations ago, cutting-edge communications infrastructure is what modern communities and countries need to stay competitive today and in the future.

Recent research from Mason-Dixon Polling and Strategy shows that support for faster implementation of 5G networks in Florida, especially South Florida, is overwhelming. A recent poll showed that 79% of Floridians support the expedited build-out of the region's 5G infrastructure, and support is highest in South Florida, at 83%, compared to other regions in the state.

As we know, connectivity and 5G infrastructure is the foundation for a host of new technologies coming out of tech

companies and into our streets, homes and daily lives in the form of autonomous vehicles, smart homes, smart cities, "Internet of Things" devices, virtual and augmented reality, just to name a few.

Thus, growing Greater Miami's role and reputation as a technology and innovation hub goes hand-in-hand with the need and plan to expedite 5G deployment. 5G infrastructure will create a transformational, long-term economic advantage for South Florida's business community.

The leadership Mayor Suarez and the City of Miami have already shown in modernizing the permitting process for "small cells" and the foundation of 5G technology is a key step in this process, and we will continue our efforts to partner with the community and turn this incredible shared vision for #MiamiGrowingTech into reality.