



Office of the Director of  
**Telecommunications  
Regulation**

**Amendment of Meteor Mobile Communications Limited  
Wireless Telegraphy Licence**

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**Information Notice**

**Document No.** ODTR 01/04

**31<sup>st</sup> January 2001**

**Oifig an Stiúirthóra Rialála Teileachumarsáide**  
**Office of the Director of Telecommunications Regulation**  
Abbey Court, Irish Life Centre, Lower Abbey Street, Dublin 1.  
*Telephone* +353-1-804 9600 *Fax* +353-1-804 9671  
*Web:* [www.odtr.ie](http://www.odtr.ie)

The Director of Telecommunications Regulation (the 'Director') has amended the Meteor Mobile Communications Limited ('Meteor') Wireless Telegraphy Licence.

The Meteor Wireless Telegraphy Licence was originally issued pursuant to the Wireless Telegraphy (TACS and GSM Mobile) Regulations, 1999 (the 'WT Regulations') in July 2000. This annual licence authorises Meteor to keep and have possession of, install, maintain, work and use apparatus set out therein for wireless telegraphy, i.e. for the provision of mobile telephony services on foot of their mobile service licence<sup>1</sup>.

Because of limited availability of radio frequency spectrum ('spectrum') in the 900 MHz band at the time of the competition for the third GSM licence (1998), it was not possible to grant the winner of the competition an allocation of 900 MHz spectrum equal to that of the existing GSM network operators<sup>2</sup>. Accordingly, a lesser allocation of 2 x 4.8 MHz of 900 MHz spectrum originally accompanied the Meteor Wireless Telegraphy Licence. However, in the period since the competition for the third GSM licence, relocation of the analogue (088) system freed up an additional 2 x 2.4 MHz of 900 MHz spectrum.

In the interests of promoting effective competition between network operators in the mobile market, the Director believes that it is appropriate to allocate this additional spectrum to Meteor. The purpose of the amendment of the Meteor Wireless is to reflect this additional spectrum.

The Director notified her proposal in this regard by notice published in *Iris Oifigiuil*<sup>3</sup> and the amendment has been effected in accordance with the European Communities (Telecommunications Licences) Regulations, 1998<sup>4</sup>, as amended.

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<sup>1</sup> Mobile Telecommunications Licence Number 003, issued pursuant to s. 111 of the Postal and Telecommunications Services Act, 1983, as amended, issued June 2000.

<sup>2</sup> In addition to spectrum in the 900 MHz band, all three GSM mobile network operators have been allocated 2 x 14.4 MHz of spectrum in the 1800 MHz band.

<sup>3</sup> Issue of 15<sup>th</sup> August 2000.

The amendment of the Meteor Wireless Telegraphy Licence now results in all GSM mobile network operators having identical allocations of spectrum, i.e. 2 x 7.2 MHz in the 900 MHz band and 2 x 14.4 MHz in the 1800 MHz band.

Meteor has been charged a spectrum access fee with respect to the additional spectrum. This fee has been calculated on a basis pro-rata to the fee charged to Meteor for the original spectrum allocation. In addition, Meteor will be liable for additional annual Wireless Telegraphy fees, as set out in the WT Regulations.

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