



**Media Release- 29th November 2004**

## **ComReg announces New Test & Trial Licensing Scheme to support Wireless Innovation**

The Commission for Communication Regulation (ComReg) today announced that it plans to introduce a new and more liberal licensing scheme for wireless services and technology trials that will make Ireland an ideal location for research and development in wireless innovation.

In addition to relaxing some of the constraints on the existing test licensing regime, ComReg will introduce a new licensing scheme which will allow innovative and new wireless services to be offered to the public on a trial basis.

This will allow new technologies and services to be tested in a realistic environment in order to ensure that subsequent commercial offerings are properly tailored to meet the needs of the market.

The main points of the new scheme are as follows:

- Licences will be issued for a period of twelve months and may be extended under certain conditions;
- As a general rule, 100 participants will be allowed where a single trial relates to a specific user group such as business users and up to 1,000 will be allowed for consumer trials. Additional participants may be considered where the licensee can justify this to the satisfaction of ComReg;

ComReg's Director of Market Framework, David Gunning said: "Ireland has unique advantages in terms of its geographic location and relative lack of spectrum congestion for wireless test and development. The new licensing regime would have the flexibility to support trials of new technologies such as Ultra Wide Band, WiMax, mobile applications and broadband."

"These new licensing initiatives will provide a major boost to wireless research and development in Ireland. ComReg will work closely with industry, engineering institutions and state agencies such as IDA Ireland to maximise industry awareness about the trial over the coming months," David Gunning added.

The introduction of this innovative licensing scheme will require new regulations, which are being developed by ComReg, and which will be submitted in the next few weeks to the Minister for Communications, Marine and Natural Resources, Noel Dempsey TD for approval. It is intended that licensing will commence early in 2005.

**ENDS**

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