



Commission for
Communications Regulation

Information Notice

ComReg consults on opening the 800 MHz and 900 MHz bands for advanced mobile services

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An Coimisiún um Rialáil Cumarsáide

Commission for Communications Regulation

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1 Information Notice

The Commission for Communications Regulation (ComReg) today published a consultation on a proposed award of rights of use in the 800 MHz and 900 MHz spectrum bands (“the Consultation”).¹

The Consultation follows ComReg’s information notice² which welcomed the Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources’ announcement on 29 July 2010 that analogue terrestrial television will be switched-off in the State in Quarter 4 of 2012 (ASO).

Since then, the Broadcasting Authority of Ireland (BAI) published a statement regarding the conclusion of its commercial digital terrestrial television (DTT) multiplex licensing process.³ In particular, it was noted by the BAI that it will not be feasible to introduce commercial DTT in advance of ASO, meaning there will not be a requirement for the use of the 800 MHz band by DTT broadcasting in advance of ASO.

Collectively, these developments provide greater clarity on the availability of spectrum in the 800 MHz band in Ireland - which ComReg currently believes to be early 2013.

In light of these developments, ComReg considers it appropriate to now consider the release and assignment of rights of use of spectrum in the 800 MHz band together with the 900 MHz band. This would mean that 130 MHz of sub-1 GHz spectrum would be available on a “liberalised” basis, which would have the potential, amongst other things, to increase competition in the relevant mobile markets in Ireland for the benefit of consumers, and could provide opportunities for innovation in advanced mobile broadband services and/or greater availability of these services at lower costs.

The Consultation will assist ComReg to determine the most appropriate process by which to release spectrum rights of use in these bands and related matters, and ComReg therefore welcomes submissions from all interested parties, with a closing date for submissions of 5pm on 15 October 2010.

¹ ComReg Document 10/71 – “800 MHz, 900 MHz & 1800 MHz spectrum release” published 17 September 2010.

² ComReg Document 10/59.

³ Broadcasting Authority of Ireland statement on Conclusion of Commercial DTT Multiplex Licensing Process, published 5 August 2010, available at: <http://www.bai.ie/>.