



Media Release- 9 January 2005

## **ComReg consults on the future management of the Radio Spectrum**

The Commission for Communications Regulation (ComReg) today published a consultation paper on how it intends to manage the radio spectrum in the next two years.

ComReg published its first Spectrum Strategy in May 2002. This consultation is the first step in updating spectrum strategy for 2005 to 2007.

The objective of the consultation is to encourage debate and feedback on ComReg's proposed strategy.

The radio frequency spectrum is used to support a large number of electronic communications services and applications. Access to radio frequencies is an essential requirement for telecommunications, aviation, shipping, defence, public safety, broadcasting, mobile phone services and the many other private businesses that rely on radio communications.

Mobile phone services are one of the most significant users of the radio spectrum with over 3.5 million Irish consumers at present. Wireless communications are also being used to provide broadband access to the Internet, e-mail and other on-line services.

The Chairperson of ComReg, Isolde Goggin, said: "Radio spectrum is now widely recognised as being a key economic resource for any nation and it is important to put a strategic plan for use of the spectrum in an appropriate economic context. ComReg commissioned a study from consultants on the contribution to GDP made by the various sectors of the radiocommunications market, including aeronautical, broadcasting, defence and maritime."

“The study estimates the contribution to the Irish economy for 2003 made by use of radio spectrum to be approximately €1.9 Billion (1.4% of total GDP) with over 24,000 employees in Ireland whose jobs depend on use of the radio spectrum.”

“ComReg’s approach to spectrum management is to regulate only where required and to intervene only where necessary to promote competition and protect users. In order to further develop our strategy it is important that ComReg elicits a wide cross-section of views on the proposals contained in this strategy consultation. I welcome comments from the public, users, industry, government and interest groups to the proposals contained in this document,” Isolde Goggin said.

The closing date for responses to the consultation is 4<sup>th</sup> March 2005.

**ENDS**

**Issued By**

**Tom Butler**

**Public Affairs Manager, ComReg**

**Ph: 01 804 9639 Mobile: 087 2536358**

**tom.butler@comreg.ie**