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## **ComReg extends eircom dsl offer following reduction in wholesale prices**

The Commission for Communications Regulation (ComReg) has been in discussions with eircom about wholesale and retail prices for its broadband DSL products. The availability to consumers of choice, in terms of prices, services and provider, has been key to the rapid take-up of broadband in other markets.

In pursuit of this objective, ComReg has accepted, in principle, an eircom proposal which will allow for a short-term extension of eircom's current Digital Subscriber Line (DSL) promotion.

The details of the proposal are as follows:

- Eircom will introduce from January 1<sup>st</sup> 2004 a permanent reduction in the wholesale connection fees to €60 for all bitstream products.
- Eircom will introduce from January 1<sup>st</sup> 2004 a permanent reduction in the wholesale disconnection fee from €75 to €60 for all bitstream products.
- Eircom will launch on Jan 1<sup>st</sup> 2004 a two-month wholesale promotion of free connection on the entry level product (compared to the current promotional connection fee of €20).
- Eircom must propose to ComReg new wholesale and retail offerings by January 9<sup>th</sup> 2004 for introduction on March 1<sup>st</sup> 2004 and have assured ComReg that arrangements will be put in place to ensure that OAOs can operate effectively if there is any delay.

The new wholesale promotion and associated retail promotions will remain in place until February 29<sup>th</sup> 2004.

The Chairperson of the Commission for Communications Regulation, John Doherty, said: “in agreeing to a reduction of prices, eircom should recognise the long-term benefits of stimulating a competitive broadband market and the benefits such reductions will bring to their own business.”

**ENDS**

**Issued By**

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