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## **ComReg holds competition for spectrum in the 26 GHz band**

ComReg has today launched a competition for access to spectrum in the 26 GHz frequency band for national block, point-to-point and point-to-multi-point licences.

Previously, licences in this band were made available on a link-by-link or base station-by-base station basis, with ComReg deciding what frequencies can be used in what locations. There are advantages in allowing users access to an entire block of spectrum, within which they have the flexibility to manage their own frequency allocations to ensure the greatest efficiency and minimum interference.

Fixed Access technology continues to advance and this spectrum has been set aside for the provision of national licences in order to meet the growing needs of data and telecommunications networks. This spectrum is suitable for a number of applications including broadband backhaul, network connectivity between the network core and a network access node (e.g. a GSM base-station) or end-user.

The licences will have the following general rights and obligations:

Each block comprises of 2 x 28 MHz of spectrum in the 26 GHz band.

These licences will be for the provision of point-to-point (P2P) and point-to-multipoint (PMP) fixed links only.

A reserve price of €1,000,000 has been placed on each of the licences on offer.

In addition each licence will be subject to an annual Wireless Telegraphy fee of €71,000 from the first renewal date.

If demand exceeds supply then the licences will be awarded via an auction in which applicants make bids in excess of the reserve price.

Any one applicant cannot bid for more than six licences.

ComReg has made the Information Memorandum, detailing the licence award process for this competition, available for purchase. (See ComReg document 06/37a) The information memorandum can be purchased from today for a non-refundable fee of €5000.

Speaking about the competition, ComReg Chairperson Isolde Goggin said, “While recognising the continuing needs of light users of the spectrum, we believe the availability of national licences in the 26 GHz band will offer high volume users of spectrum greater flexibility and opportunities for more efficient network planning and use of spectrum.”

**ENDS**

**Issued By**

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