



Media Release - 12 March 2009

ComReg holds consultation on Ireland's Digital Dividend

The Commission for Communications Regulation (ComReg) today published a consultation document on Ireland's digital dividend. This dividend will become available from the switchover from analogue to digital terrestrial television technology.

The digital dividend provides a once in a generation opportunity for Ireland to develop and utilise new and innovative forms of broadcasting and communications services for the benefit of the citizens of Ireland.

John Doherty, chairperson of ComReg, said that "this consultation focuses on the key strategic options that must be considered in order to ensure that Ireland maximises the unique opportunity arising from the digital dividend. The digital dividend will be a valuable national asset and it has the potential to support new types of broadcasting and communications services. ComReg would welcome responses to this consultation from any party interested in the use of the digital dividend.

The consultation focuses on a number of key issues which includes the following

- the option of clearing the 800 MHz sub-band to accommodate uses other than broadcasting and providing access to it in a timely manner.
- exploring opportunities for sub-bands other than the 800 MHz sub-band as part of Ireland's digital dividend
- considering whether some of the digital dividend could be set aside as an innovation reserve.

The full consultation document on the digital dividend – ComReg 09/15 is available in the publications section of the ComReg website www.comreg.ie

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Issued By Tom Butler

Public Affairs Manager, ComReg

Ph: 01 804 9639 Mobile: 087 2536358

tom.butler@comreg.ie