



Media Release- 26th September, 2006

Broadband subscriptions top 372,000 by end of June 2006, with penetration of around 10% by end-August

The Commission for Communications Regulation (ComReg) today published its Quarterly Report for the period March-June, the second quarter (Q2) of 2006. The key trends for the period suggest continued strong growth in broadband uptake by Irish customers, with an increasing number of broadband subscribers using alternative technology platforms for broadband access.

The report highlights a number of other key trends in the electronic communications market:

- Broadband penetration at end of June 2006 was 8.8%, and approximately 10% by the end of August
- 39% of total internet subscriptions are delivered via broadband, up from 22% in the same period last year
- Alternative operators continue to gain share of the broadband market. Eircom retailed DSL lines now account for 52% of all broadband connections, compared to 61% in the same period last year.
- There are 4.4 million active 2G and 3G mobile phone subscriptions in Ireland, a penetration rate of 103%
- Irish consumers sent almost 1.5 billion text messages in the quarter, an average of 114 messages per subscriber per month.

The Chairperson of ComReg, Isolde Goggin said: “There has been relatively strong growth in broadband subscriptions over the last six months and broadband penetration has currently reached approximately 10%. It was very encouraging to see a surge in activity by many companies offering broadband over the last six months which has resulted in an increase in broadband take-up by businesses and consumers. The Quarterly Report also highlights current developments in relation to mobile TV which will be trialled shortly by a number of operators in Ireland.”

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