



Commission for
Communications Regulation

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ComReg outlines draft strategy to manage the Ireland's Radio Spectrum

The Commission for Communications Regulation (ComReg) today published its draft Spectrum Strategy Statement 2008 – 2010.

The period to 2010 will see many changes in the deployment and use of radio spectrum as well as increased demand for spectrum from a wide variety of areas. Initiatives such as Digital Terrestrial Television and the ensuing Digital Dividend makes this an exciting time for spectrum management. Ireland's spectrum is being used to support the provision of broadband with over 126,000 subscribers receiving their broadband service by wireless means and a further 135,000 subscribers receiving broadband over mobile phone networks. This document sets out ComReg's strategy for managing the use of the radio spectrum in Ireland over the next two years in order to ensure that Ireland can leverage the maximum benefits economically, strategically and socially from use of this national resource.

The Chairperson of ComReg, John Doherty said: "Radio spectrum is now generally recognised as being a key economic resource for any nation and our assessment of the contribution made by the use of radio spectrum to the Irish economy for 2006 is almost €3 billion, equivalent to 1.67% of total GDP. Additionally, radio spectrum is a vital component in supporting Irish businesses through advanced communications systems including mobile and broadband. The number of direct employees whose jobs are dependent on use of the radio spectrum is, conservatively, estimated to be over 30,000".

The publication is available on ComReg's website www.comreg.ie and ComReg welcomes comments from interested parties up to 11 April 2008.

ENDS

Issued By
Tom Butler

Public Affairs Manager, ComReg
Ph: 01 804 9639 Mobile: 087 2536358

tom.butler@comreg.ie