



Media Release- 28 October 2004

ComReg proposes new opportunities for the provision of broadband over wireless

The Commission for Communications Regulation (ComReg) has today published a Consultation Paper (ComReg 04/107) which seeks views on proposals to license wideband digital mobile data services in the 420 MHz and 900 MHz bands of the radio spectrum. The proposed new wideband digital mobile data services will facilitate high-speed wireless internet access and other data communications.

ComReg is committed to extending the availability of broadband data services to the public to the greatest extent possible. ComReg has successfully launched several initiatives to promote this goal such as permitting licence-exempt services (for example wireless LANs or WiFi) as well as licensed fixed wireless access services. As these services roll-out, ComReg is keen to facilitate further innovation in wireless broadband.

ComReg is proposing to make spectrum available in both the 420 MHz and 900 MHz frequency bands for up to two national licences in each band to provide services with typical data rates in the order of 384 to 500 kilobits per second. It may also make spectrum available in the same bands for local area licences.

David Gunning, ComReg's Director of Market Framework, said: "This consultation by ComReg is designed to stimulate further innovation in the provision of broadband services by wireless. Ireland is in the fortunate position of having spectrum available to support innovative wireless applications. ComReg expects existing operators and new operators to respond positively to this consultation to the benefit of Irish consumers."

In order to gauge the level of interest in providing such services and to assist in determining the most appropriate licensing scheme to apply, expressions of interest are invited from parties interested in providing such services in these frequency bands. The number of expressions of interest received will assist ComReg in designing the most appropriate procedure for the allocation of licences.

Responses to the consultation should be sent to ComReg by Friday 3rd December 2004.

Note for editors

*Licence-exempt spectrum is in the 2.4 GHz, 5 GHz and 5.8 GHz bands.
Licensed spectrum is in the 3.5 GHz, 10.5 GHz and 26 GHz bands.*

ENDS

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