



ComReg publishes consultation paper on Regional Digital Video Broadcasting in the UHF Band

The Commission for Communications Regulation today published a consultation paper seeking views on the launch of a scheme of regional or local licences in the UHF bands using the standards applicable to DVB-T or DVB-H. The consultation also seeks expressions of interest in applying for licences for the provision of services using either standard.

Regional Digital Video Broadcasting (DVB) could offer customers an increased choice of digital TV providers and would encourage variety in service offerings. Subject to spectrum availability and the choice of programme services provided, it could complement a national Digital Terrestrial Television (DTT) service when DTT is launched.

DVB-H opens up the possibility of the mobile availability of converged TV, Radio, Telephony and Data services on a hand held device. In addition to inviting expressions of interest in licences for DVB-H, ComReg is seeking views as to what other technologies should be considered for provision of services to handheld devices.

ComReg considers that, subject to spectrum availability, a licence period of up to five years would be appropriate for regional or local services and is seeking views on licence duration.

ComReg launched a revised licensing scheme for test and trial licences earlier in 2005. It is willing to facilitate trials of up to twelve months duration of DVB-H technology, or other standards, to deliver services to handheld devices and would welcome applications under the trial licensing scheme in respect of such mobile services.

Glossary

Term	Definition
DVB	Digital Video Broadcasting. A series of standards for television transmission and delivery developed in Europe by the DVB organisation, a consortium of broadcasters and manufacturers, based at the EBU building in Geneva
DVB-H	Handheld DVB standard, intended for delivery of audiovisual content to mobile terminals
DVB-T	Terrestrial DVB standard
UHF	Ultra High Frequency (300 MHz to 3 GHz) , Band IV/V for broadcasting occupies 470-862 MHz

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