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ComReg publishes consultation paper on Retail Minus price control for wholesale bitstream

The Commission for Communications Regulations has today published for consultation its proposals on the format and basis of the wholesale 'retail minus' price control for eircom's bitstream services.

Wholesale bitstream is the service that eircom provides to other operators that allows them to provide retail broadband services over eircom's network.

The purpose of ComReg's proposals is to achieve a form of wholesale price control which allows a reasonable margin to competitors who access eircom's network to provide broadband services to end users, while continuing to provide eircom with the incentive and ability to invest in its network.

This consultation follows from the market review of the Wholesale Broadband Access Market (WBA) conducted in accordance with the EU regulatory framework. In document 05/11r, ComReg designated eircom as having Significant Market Power in the WBA market and imposed an obligation for a wholesale price control.

Once ComReg has considered the submissions to this consultation, it will publish a Response to Consultation and set out its final proposal specifying the wholesale price control. This will be sent to the European Commission for comment in due course.

The full consultation paper in – ComReg 05/67 – is available on the ComReg website www.comreg.ie The consultation period for this issue will run until the September 16, 2005.

ENDS

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