



Media Release- 24 August 2011

ComReg publishes its draft decision on the proposed auction of the 800 MHz, 900 MHz and 1800 MHz spectrum bands

The Commission for Communications Regulation today published its response to consultation and draft decision for the proposed auction of rights of use in the 800 MHz, 900 MHz and 1800 MHz radio spectrum bands.

This auction would assign spectrum rights across these three bands for the period 2013 to 2030 and as a result it should enable telecoms operators to make the necessary investment to usher in a new era of advanced wireless services including fast, high capacity mobile broadband.

In particular, the 800 MHz and 900 MHz spectrum bands are highly suitable for advanced mobile services due mainly to their propagation properties which give wide area coverage, good bandwidth capacity and high-quality reception in buildings.

The main features of the proposed auction are as follows:

- 28 blocks of spectrum to be made available in total, with each block comprising 2×5 MHz of spectrum;
- the winners will be those who make the highest bids;
- two auction phases – the first to determine the amount of spectrum a bidder has won rights to and the second phase to determine the location in the relevant spectrum band; and
- a competition cap on what any bidder can win of up to 10 blocks of spectrum, with a maximum of four blocks below 1000 MHz.

ComReg welcomes written comments from interested parties on any of the issues raised in this matter by 5 pm, 30 September 2011. When it has concluded its review of all of the submissions received, and other relevant material, ComReg intends to publish its final Decision on this matter.

Full details of this response to consultation and draft decision may be found in ComReg Document 11/60 which is available on the ComReg website. ComReg is also publishing today a number of expert reports which have informed its analysis.

ENDS

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