



Media Release – 15 September 2005

ComReg publishes its Radio Spectrum Management Strategy for 2005 – 2007

The Commission for Communication Regulation (ComReg) today published its strategy for management of the radio spectrum. This publication sets out in detail both how ComReg intends to manage the radio spectrum over the next two years as well as its vision for development of spectrum usage in Ireland up to 2010.

Radio frequency spectrum is used to support a large number of electronic communications services and applications. Access to radio frequencies is vital for telecommunications, aviation, shipping, defence services, public safety, broadcasting, public mobile services and the many private businesses that rely on radiocommunications. In managing the radio spectrum ComReg's four strategic goals over this period are to:

1. Improve access to radio spectrum;
2. Maximise the economic and social benefits of spectrum usage;
3. Promote the efficient use of the spectrum resource;
4. Ensure compliance with national and international requirements and the avoidance of harmful interference between services.

In addition to ComReg's four strategic goals, the strategy details plans and goals for specific services including new licence regimes for radar and radionavigation services, an examination of market mechanisms and liberalisation options, improving sharing of spectrum, reviews of band usage and the opening up of opportunities for new services.

The Chairperson of ComReg, Isolde Goggin said: “Radio spectrum is now generally recognised as being a key economic resource for any nation. A study undertaken as part of our Consultation process has estimated the contribution made by use of radio spectrum to the Irish economy for 2003 to be of the order of €1.9 Billion (1.4% of total GDP) with over 24,000 employees in Ireland whose jobs are dependent on use of the radio spectrum”.

“As part of the process of updating our strategy we have, over the past nine months we have consulted with a number of different experts as well as holding workshops with key stakeholders on a range of different issues. While this strategy, in line with our legislative obligations covers the next two years, spectrum planning requires a long term view and we took the opportunity to develop our vision for spectrum usage up to 2010.”

The complete strategy is available on ComReg’s website – ComReg 05/72 - and in printed booklet format.

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