



Media Release- 18th March 2005

ComReg Quarterly Report confirms continued growth in the telecoms sector

The Commission for Communications Regulation today published its latest quarterly report – covering the fourth quarter of 2004 – which highlights a number of key trends in the electronic communications sector.

Total revenues for fixed, mobile & broadcasting markets now stand at an estimated €4 billion per annum on an annualised basis. This represents an increase of approximately 5.85% since the last quarter mainly due to growth in mobile revenues.

Mobile phone penetration increased by 6% from 88% to 94%. There are now an estimated 3.78 million mobile phone subscribers in Ireland. This growth which is predominantly in the prepaid segment may have been influenced by seasonal factors as the quarter under review covers the Christmas period.

There were over 1 billion SMS or text messages sent during the fourth quarter, an increase of almost 10% on the previous quarter. This equates to an average of 89 SMS messages per subscriber per month. Meteor has increased its market share, based on subscriber numbers, to 9% of mobile phone subscribers with Vodafone and O₂ having 51% and 40% respectively. During the period Vodafone launched its 3G service.

In relation to broadband, DSL take-up has increased over the last quarter by over 37% to 114,000, up from 83,000. By the end of 2004, there was a total of 131,550 broadband subscribers.

In the fixed-line telephone sector, there are now approximately 330,000 Carrier Pre-Select (CPS) lines, an increase of almost 10%. 74,300 of these are wholesale line rental or single bill customers.

ENDS Issued By

Tom Butler, Public Affairs Manager, ComReg

Ph: 01 804 9639 Mobile: 087 2536358

tom.butler@comreg.ie

ComReg PR180305