



Media Release- 20 December 2004

## **ComReg Quarterly Report shows strong uptake of Broadband**

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

ComReg's quarterly report shows that total revenues for fixed, mobile and broadcasting markets now stand at an estimated €3.78 billion which is up 3.6% since 2003, mainly due to an increase in mobile revenues.

The Quarterly Report shows that by the end of September over 34,000 consumers had taken up Single Billing since it was launched on June 1 2004 and that take-up continues to increase rapidly. Single Billing allows consumers to get both line rental and calls from a phone company other than eircom. Five companies are currently processing orders for Single Billing. They are Access Telecom, Esat BT, Gaelic Telecom, Smart Telecom and UTV.

The number of Carrier Pre-Select lines has increased by 8% since last quarter and it now stands at approximately 300,000 lines.

In relation to Broadband, the Report shows that by the end of September approximately 83,000 DSL lines have been installed, an increase of 49% from the last quarter. In addition, subscriptions to Fixed Wireless Access services have increased by 40% since the last quarter.

Mobile phone penetration now stands at 3.57 million subscribers reflecting an increase of over 300,000 additional subscribers since the end of September 2003.

There are now almost half a million cable, MMDS and satellite Digital TV subscribers.

ComReg also issued the highlights of a survey prepared by Amárach Consulting which examines consumer attitudes to electronic communications. The survey shows that:

- Over 1.3 million Irish Adults use the Internet from any location
- 66% of all internet use takes place in the home compared to 31% which takes place at work.

ComReg has also published the highlights of a survey on attitudes to the Postal Service and a survey of Consumer Attitudes to Broadcasting services.

The Chairperson of the Commission for Communications Regulation, Isolde Goggin said: “As we come to the end of 2004 there are some encouraging trends in this quarterly report. The significant take-up of single billing by consumers shows that it can play a very valuable role in stimulating further competition in the marketplace. There has been significant growth in the take-up of DSL and ComReg would like to see stronger take-up of the product in 2005. It’s vital that competition within the electronic communications sector continues to develop. A strong and competitive electronics sector is vital to Ireland’s continued economic growth and development.”

All of the relevant documents and surveys in relation to the ComReg Quarterly Report are available in the Publications Section of the ComReg website.

**ENDS**

**Issued By**

**Tom Butler**

**Public Affairs Manager, ComReg**

**Ph: 01 804 9639 Mobile: 087 2536358**

**tom.butler@comreg.ie**