



Media Release- 27th March, 2007

## **ComReg Quarterly Report shows there are over a million internet subscribers in Ireland**

The Commission for Communications Regulation (ComReg) has published its Quarterly Report for the three months from October to December of 2006 (Quarter 4).

The Report shows that by December 2006 broadband subscriptions had exceeded 517,000, rising by over 80,000 during the fourth quarter.

For the first time 50% of the 1.03 million internet users accessed the Web using a broadband connection.

The report also highlights a number of other trends in the electronic communications market:

- Combined revenues from the fixed line, mobile and cable broadcasting industry increased by 12% year-on-year to €4.28 billion in 2006.
- Eircom's overall market share of the fixed line market dropped by a further 1% to 71% in Q4 2006 and was down over 7% in the past 12 months.
- 73% of broadband subscriptions during Q4 2006 were delivered over DSL. 52% of all broadband subscriptions were delivered by operators other than Eircom.
- There are now 4.7 million mobile subscriptions in Ireland - a penetration rate of 111%, which is an increase of 5% on the previous quarter.
- SMS texting continued to grow rapidly with an average of 117 texts sent by Irish consumers in the three months from October to December 2006, compared with 94 texts in the corresponding period of 2005.
- In total, an estimated 5.7 billion text messages were sent during 2006.

### **ENDS**

**Tom Butler, Public Affairs Manager, ComReg**

**Ph: 01 804 9639**

**Mobile: 087 2536358**

**tom.butler@comreg.ie**