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ComReg Quarterly Report shows 3% increase in communications market revenue in the past 12 months

The Commission Communications Regulation (ComReg) today published its latest quarterly report – covering the first quarter of 2004 – which highlights a number of important developments in the communications sector.

ComReg's quarterly report shows that total revenues for fixed, mobile and broadcasting markets now stand at an estimated €3.57 billion which is up 3% on 2003.

The number of Carrier Pre-Select (CPS) lines has increased by 12% on the last quarter and it now stands at 252,000 lines. The report also shows that flat rate internet access (FRIACO) subscriptions increased by 58% from 40,000 to 63,100 in the last quarter. DSL has also increased significantly from 25,300 to 36,000 in the last quarter.

Mobile phone penetration now stands at 88% of the population or 3.5 million mobile subscribers at the end of March 2004. 122,000 mobile subscribers have ported their number since the introduction of Mobile Number Portability last July. Text messaging has grown by 25% since last year and over 910 million were sent during the quarter in question, which is an average of 88 messages per subscriber, per month.

The quarterly report also includes the highlights of a survey of 400 large and small businesses on their attitudes to broadband and it shows that:

- 57% of businesses surveyed use DSL for broadband access
- 21% of businesses surveyed use leased lines for broadband access
- 75% of businesses surveyed say broadband has become more competitive over the last 12 months
- 91% of those surveyed broadband say has become more available to businesses over the last 12 months
- However, 20% of businesses surveyed had difficulty getting broadband
- 44% of businesses surveyed provide broadband for remote access for teleworkers

ComReg's survey of internet usage which was carried out by Amárach Consulting shows that 1 in 4 people use the internet every day, which represents an increase of 6% on the previous quarter. One in three people use the internet several times a week.

Commenting on the Quarterly Report, Commissioner Isolde Goggin said: "ComReg welcomes the increase in broadband penetration and availability in both the business and residential markets. However, there are businesses who continue to have difficulty getting broadband. We also welcome the increase in CPS numbers, which reflects greater competition in the fixed line market."

ENDS

Issued By

Tom Butler

Public Affairs Manager, ComReg

Ph: 01 804 9639 Mobile: 087 2536358

tom.butler@comreg.ie