

Media Release - 24 November 2009

ComReg report shows strong support for Next Generation Broadband in Ireland

The Commission for Communications Regulation (ComReg) has today published an Information Notice setting out respondent's views on its discussion document *Next Generation Broadband (NGB) in Ireland* (ComReg Document 09/56).

The Information Notice also offers perspectives from ComReg in relation to the key regulatory and market developments which are likely to impact the nature and timing of future NGB deployments in Ireland. In order to provide clarity and certainty for industry and other stakeholders, the Information Notice also sets out the key principles that will guide ComReg's regulatory approach in dealing with NGB issues.

ComReg Chairman, John Doherty, Chairperson said "ComReg received a significant response to its NGB discussion document, for which we are grateful. There is clearly strong support for the development of NGB in Ireland given its potential to positively impact our future economic growth and international competitiveness. ComReg is committed to continuing to play its part in facilitating NGB infrastructure development through the provision of regulatory certainty to the market and, in doing so, ComReg will be mindful of the need to both encourage efficient investment and promote competition. Guided by the key regulatory principles set out in our Information Notice, ComReg will continue, over the coming months, to work with DCENR, industry and user representatives to facilitate timely and efficient rollout of NGB in Ireland."

The Document 09/88 is available in the Publications Section of www.comreg.ie.

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- 1. Next Generation Broadband in Ireland: promoting the timely and efficient development of high speed broadband infrastructure and services: In July, 2009 ComReg issued its discussion document "*Next Generation Broadband in Ireland*" which offered perspectives on the range of policy, technical and regulatory issues which could support a timely and efficient move towards the increased availability of high speed Next Generation Broadband services in the market. The document (number 09/56) is available on ComReg's website <u>www.comreg.ie</u> or by clicking <u>Here</u>.
- **2. Copy of responses:** A copy of non-confidential responses to ComReg's NGB discussion document is available on ComReg's website www.comreg.ie.
- **3. Next Generation Broadband: Gateway to a Knowledge Ireland:** In June, 2009 the Department of Communications, Marine and Natural Resources (DCENR) issued its paper "*Next Generation Broadband: Gateway to a Knowledge Ireland*" which sets out the policy framework for developments in this area. The document is available on the DCENR website <u>www.dcenr.gov.ie</u>.