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ComReg says emerging wireless technology could provide cheaper calls

The Commission for Communications Regulation (ComReg) today issued a briefing note on developments in Unlicensed Mobile Access (UMA) technology as part of its Forward-Looking Programme. The purpose of this document is to raise awareness of the types of technologies now emerging that can bring together fixed and mobile phone services.

UMA is type of technology that enables service providers to deliver services using a combination of standard mobile technology and unlicensed wireless technologies such as Wi-Fi. This could allow consumers to avail of low cost fixed calls while in their homes or in the office, and standard mobile services while out and about, all on the same handset. This type of technology is now available and is currently being deployed by operators in some countries.¹

ComReg chairperson Isolde Goggin said: “We note the developments in other European countries, and would be pleased to see the emergence of innovative new telecommunications products and services in Ireland to take advantage of the opportunities that fixed mobile convergence technologies create.”

The full document 06/43 can be viewed at www.comreg.ie

The document marks the re-launch the ComReg Briefing Note Series, with further notes to follow this year. The Briefing Note Series is part of ComReg’s Forward-Looking Programme and is primarily aimed at non-technical readers with some background knowledge of current telecommunications technology. These documents are intended to develop the debate rather than to outline conclusions and ComReg welcomes comments on the points raised in the notes.

ENDS

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¹ Interested readers should also see the current ComReg Consultation on “Geographic Number Allocations for Hybrid Fixed-Mobile Telecoms Services” (ComReg Doc. 06/33), which relates to similar services.