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## **ComReg says 'Smart' antenna systems can provide consumers with faster and better access to Broadband Wireless**

The Commission for Communications Regulation (ComReg) today issued a briefing note on developments in advanced 'smart' or 'adaptive' antenna systems as part of its Forward Looking Programme. The purpose of this document is to help raise awareness of the types of technologies now emerging that can help increase both fixed and mobile broadband wireless access.

Smart antenna systems utilise advanced signal processing technology to make more efficient use of radio spectrum. These antenna systems are able to steer their attention in particular directions, increasing the possibilities for an operator to reuse a given portion of spectrum to serve more customers.

Smart antenna technology can be applied to both fixed and mobile wireless networks to serve more customers with higher speed services. Smart antenna technologies can be particularly useful in \*non-line-of-sight wireless access systems where end users can install their own access devices (i.e. 'plug and play'), making this type of system more accessible.

The potential advantages provided by smart antenna systems are important as operators seek to cost effectively increase broadband penetration. The briefing note includes sections on technologies, applications, regulatory implications and market development.

The Chairperson of the Commission for Communications Regulation, John Doherty said: "Smart antenna systems can help make business cases for potential fixed and mobile wireless operators more attractive as well as providing consumers with more access opportunities and at higher speeds to Broadband. ComReg would be pleased to see innovative applications of smart antenna technology that do not compromise the ability of existing services to function. Such innovative services could provide a whole range of broadband wireless access services to Irish telecoms users.

The full document ComReg 04/52 can be viewed on the ComReg website [www.comreg.ie](http://www.comreg.ie)

**ENDS**

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\*Explanatory Note

[Non-line-of-sight wireless systems – these are radio systems that can connect users without the need for a direct clear path between the user and the operator’s base-station. This means that more customers can be reached and that operators do not have to individually install an antenna on the roof of each customer’s premises.]