



Media Release- November 28th 2003

ComReg to Grant 32 Fixed Wireless Access 3.5GHz Licences

The Commission for Communications Regulation (ComReg) today announced its intention to grant 32 Fixed Wireless Access Local Area licences in the 3.5GHz band. Resulting from these offers, 7 applicants have now accepted ComReg's offer of licences for various parts of the country and the administrative process of granting licences shall now begin. Two operators have declined the offers of licences which means that the next best qualified candidates can be offered licences in these areas. This will be done in the coming days.

These licence offers are made following the completion of the first phase of a two phase licensing scheme for the provision of broadband services on a local area basis. The competition ranked applications on the basis of their tariff offers for broadband services and voluntary performance guarantee bonds as set out in the tender documents.

Etain Doyle, Chairperson of the Commission said that she was very pleased with the outcome of the competition. "I am delighted with the overall outcome of this competition. Fixed Wireless Access on a local area basis shall provide end users with real choice and shall open the market up to additional competition. This service shall also be of particular benefit to residential and business users and shall help greatly in bringing broadband services to a wider range of consumer."

The following applicants have accepted licences:

- Budget Wireless: 4 licences
- Chorus Communications Ltd: 1 licence
- Digiweb Ltd: 10 licences
- European Access Providers: 6 licences
- Irish Broadband: 7 licences
- Last Mile Wireless: 2 licences
- Real Broadband: 2 licences

ENDS

Issued By

Tom Butler
Public Affairs Manager, ComReg
Ph: 01 804 9639 Mobile: 087 2536358

tom.butler@comreg.ie