



Information Notice

Expiry of Eircom's FWPMA licence and future spectrum availability for FWALA licensing

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On 15 June 2000, Eircom was granted a “narrowband” Fixed Wireless Point to Multipoint Access (FWPMA) licence in the 3.6 GHz band (“the Licence”) under the “Wireless Telegraphy (Fixed Wireless Point to Multi-point Access Licence) Regulations 1999 (S.I. 287 of 1999). The Licence was of ten-year duration and therefore it expired on 14 June 2010.

Although not issued specifically for the purpose, Eircom also used the Licence to enable it to meet its Universal Service Obligations (USO). Since expiry of the Licence, Eircom has begun the process of migrating its USO customers onto another service platform. In order to ensure that customers do not suffer any loss of service during this migration period ComReg has put the following mechanism in place:

- Eircom has been licensed to use Point to Multipoint radio link licences in the 3.6 GHz band covering 75 base station locations and for a period not exceeding 24 months.
- Each Point to Multipoint radio link licence only permits Eircom to use the precise amount of spectrum that is required at each base station in order to provide a service to the customers in the area served by that station.
- Eircom has been issued with one Fixed Wireless Local Area Access (FWALA) licence, authorising use of the precise amount of spectrum that is required to continue the provision of services to customers receiving WiMax/broadband services in the Black Valley area.
- All of the transitional licences granted to Eircom will expire on 14 June 2012 and will not be renewed.
- ComReg has removed the prohibition on Eircom applying for FWALA licences.

The expiry of the FWPMA licence and the associated migration arrangements will enable ComReg to make additional spectrum available for FWALA licensing in due course.