



Commission for
Communications Regulation

Information Notice

Extension of Deadline for Eircom's Universal Service Funding Application

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The Commission for Communications Regulation ("ComReg") published Decision No. D04/11 entitled "*Costing of universal service obligations: Principles and Methodologies*" on 31 May 2011 (the "Decision").

Eircom has informed ComReg that it intends to submit an application for funding in respect of its universal service obligation ("USO") for 2009/2010. The Decision provides that an application must be received by 30 November 2011. The Decision also provides that ComReg may extend that deadline, where it considers that there are exceptional reasons for doing so.

Eircom has requested an extension to the original deadline of 30 November 2011, to 29 February 2012 for the following reason:

- It is the first time a USO funding application has been made by Eircom. The supporting financial model is complex and bespoke.
- There have been delays and certain practical difficulties with recruiting expertise to assist Eircom.
- A USO funding application must have an appropriate audit opinion or report. Eircom cannot obtain this until the financial model has been completed.
- There are regulatory work-streams in other areas which are drawing on the same resources within Eircom.

In view of the above, ComReg considers there are exceptional reasons for giving Eircom the extension it requests. ComReg has therefore decided to extend the deadline for Eircom to make its USO funding application for 2009/2010, to **29 February 2012**. ComReg intends to publish its determination on Eircom's USO funding application for 2009/2010 within approximately 8 months of receiving such an application.

Eircom's application for funding for 2010/2011 was to be received by ComReg by 31 March 2012. Eircom has requested that this deadline also be extended to 30 November 2012. ComReg considers that there are also exceptional reasons for giving Eircom this extension:

- Eircom's application for 2009/2010 has been delayed and inevitably this will affect its ability to complete the subsequent application on time.
- Eircom's application for 2010/2011 will be significantly influenced by ComReg's assessment of Eircom's application for 2009/2010.

The Decision and related documents are available on the ComReg website www.comreg.ie