Information Notice

Next Generation Bitstream Access

Document No:	07/95
Date:	28, November 2007

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The advent of Next Generation Networks has seen much debate within industry regarding future wholesale products, and in particular what form next generation wholesale Bitstream products might take. ComReg issued a position paper on Next Generation Networks last July (ComReg 07/40).

Building on this earlier work, and in order to better inform the debate and aid in the development of appropriate statements of requirements, ComReg engaged Wik Consult GmbH to examine emerging wholesale and retail next generation products in Europe and ultimately to make detailed recommendations about the optimum characteristics of future Bitstream products. The work undertaken is one element within a range of issues surrounding NGNs which are currently being discussed within the industry working groups.

The report outlines:

- A survey of retail triple play product offerings and assessment of technical strategies being adopted by leading European operators based on FTTx infrastructure

- An overview of emerging NGN wholesale bitstream products

- An assessment of the technical requirements for an optimum wholesale product suite

- An evaluation of Irish operators' proposed retail and wholesale products

The report provides a recommended framework for Bitstream access in Ireland. In particular, the technical requirements for an optimum Bitstream product are categorised under the following headings:

- Level of bitstream access

- Service classes

- Access line parameters

- Functionalities for video distribution

- Operational Support System functionality

ComReg recommends that all operators carefully consider the recommendations in the Wik report, with particular emphasis on the technical requirements for an optimal Bitstream product (as set out in chapter 4 and summarized in table 4-7) in the context of what their own requirements will be. In defining their requirements, operators should particularly consider their needs in terms of network access requirements

(section 4.3.1.1), service classes (summarised in table 4-5) and Operational Support System requirements (section 4.3.5).

ComReg welcomes comments on this report. Please forward any comments to Ms. Eavan Mangan, Forward Planning Unit, Market Framework Division (Eavan.Mangan@comreg.ie) by close of business on **Friday December 21st**. All comments will help to inform bilateral meetings with individual operators to further explore what their future bitstream needs might be.

ComReg encourages operators to build on the recommendations from Wik when formulating their own individual product requirements. Individual requirements can be documented by operators and submitted to eircom or can be gathered by industry into a formal Statement of Requirements which will then feed into the Eircom product development process.

Finally, ComReg will organise a briefing session in the coming weeks in order for Wik consult to present the findings of the report and answer any questions you might have. Invitations will be issued by ComReg in due course.