

MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Tuesday 18th April 2000

Introducing 3G Mobile Communications in Ireland

3rd Generation Mobile licences to be awarded in early 2001

Over 200 people representing various interest groups attended an information forum in the Conrad Hotel, Dublin (18th April 2000) on the planned introduction of third generation mobile licences in Ireland. The workshop was organised by the ODTR.

The purpose of the workshop is to inform industry and users of the plans for the introduction of 3G mobile communications in Ireland and elicit their views on major issues e.g. competition formats, number of licences, roaming and other relevant issues.

The proposed timetable for the introduction of 3G Mobile Communications in Ireland was outlined.

Workshop	18 th February 2000
Consultation	July 2000
Analysis of Responses from Consultation	September 2000
Publish Competition Details	October 2000
Run the Competition	Nov 2000 to February 2001
Award licences	February 2001
Network Rollouts	2001 – 2002
3G Services	2002

Addressing the workshop the Regulator, Eoin Doyle said “ 3G mobile brings together the two fastest growing market sectors, mobile and the internet. It represents a major evolution in mobile communications, bringing together the full power of the Internet, with high quality audio, video and graphics, to people on the move. New standards and globally harmonised radio spectrum will enable the services to be accessed world-wide, building on the success of the European GSM mobile phone licence.”

She continued “ Data rates up to 200 times those of existing mobile phones will enable large files to be transmitted almost instantaneously and new applications like electronic postcards and mobile video conferencing will be commonplace. Many analysts now expect that within a few years more people will access the web using mobile phones rather than PC’s. With the highest mobile penetration in the world, Europe is particularly well placed to benefit from this shift in the market”

Full documentation on today’s workshop is available on the website at www.odtr.ie.

Notes for the Editors

1. Third Generation represents the next major step in the evolution of mobile communications. The principle difference between 3G services and 2G counterparts is the emphasis on data rather than voice services. The principal enablers of 3G mobile are availability of new radio spectrum and the development of a global family of standards under the banner “ IMT- 2000” (International Mobile Telecommunications 2000).
2. 3G services will combine mobility with the wide bandwidth that is today only available over fixed networks. Data speeds of up to 2 million bits per second will be feasible, over 200 times faster than today’s mobile phones.
3. The Director hopes to be in a position to licence 3G services in Ireland by the end of February 2001. A decision has not yet been made on the competition format or the number of licences to be awarded.
4. A total of 155 MHz of radio spectrum is available for 3G mobile services in Ireland.

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