



## Media Release- 4 February 2003

### **Mobile Spectrum Could Provide Broadband Access**

ComReg proposes that GSM mobile operators be permitted to provide fixed broadband services using part of their licensed radio spectrum, which is not being used to provide mobile services in order to further extend broadband rollout in Ireland. This option would be additional to dedicated wireless networks, which have far greater capacity. This new proposal would be particularly advantageous to areas that might be beyond the reach of alternative platforms such as cable. Such a move would be in line with the Government's objective of achieving widespread broadband availability throughout the State within three years.

ComReg's proposal would also permit the provision of other broadband wireless access services using either GSM or non-GSM technologies in up to 20% of the licensees' assigned 1800 MHz spectrum.

"This new proposal which is directed at the mobile operators would be a valuable complement to existing broadband initiatives, enabling the extensive geographic coverage of the mobile networks to be utilised to the benefit of fixed as well as mobile subscribers" said **Etain Doyle** Chairperson of ComReg.

There is a demand for additional licensed spectrum for fixed wireless which provides for guaranteed service quality and ComReg has a number of initiatives to increase availability. ComReg is currently awaiting approval of its 'first come, first served' scheme which would allow local and regional operators provide a wireless broadband service to their communities.

The primary purpose of a GSM licence is, and will continue to be, the delivery of high quality mobile services using the pan-European GSM standard, as stipulated in the operators' licences. The use of GSM technologies for the delivery of mobile services continues to be required in accordance with licence conditions, and the delivery of broadband fixed services will not be considered as justification for further GSM spectrum.

Interested parties have until 10 March 2003 to respond to the proposal which is available on [www.comreg.ie](http://www.comreg.ie) 03/13

ENDS

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