



Office of the Director of
**Telecommunications
Regulation**

MEDIA RELEASE

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More choice for Businesses as two Broadband licences issued

Licences will allow high-speed transmission of large volumes of information

Etain Doyle, Telecoms Regulator today (Wednesday 5th July 2000) issued Wireless in the Local loop(WLL) broadband licences to Esat Telecom Ltd and Formus Communications Ireland Ltd . The licences, which are valid for 10 years, are particularly suited to the needs of medium to large users of telecommunications services and will allow for the high-speed transmission of large volumes of information including voice, video and data. Broadband access will enable services such as PABX connection, broadband Internet access, multimedia and fast file transfer.

According to the Regulator“ Broadband WLL (Wireless in the Local Loop) attacks the monopoly of the “last mile”. It will compete with and complement other access technologies offering the customer more choice, more services and better prices. One of the major strengths of this technology is that it provides a quicker and less expensive alternative to connecting the customers than copper or fibre cable. WLL can be used in places that for geographical reasons have been difficult to service in the traditional manner. The additional capacity will enable businesses realise their e-commerce plans quickly and cheaply even if they are in areas not well serviced by broadband at present. ”

According to the Regulator “ Today’s announcement is another important step in helping to deliver broadband services to all corners of the country. Advanced telecommunications infrastructure and services together with low telecommunications costs are critical to the advancement of the digital economy.”

ENDS

Issued by

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Note to the Editors

Wireless in the Local Loop (WLL)

Wireless in the local loop also referred to as FWPMA (Fixed Wireless Point to Multipoint Access) uses radio communications to connect customers premises to operator’s network (radio and/or fibre). Both broadband and narrowband licences are being issued by the ODTR with broadband aimed at larger businesses and narrowband at the smaller business and residential market.