



Office of the Director of
**Telecommunications
Regulation**

MEDIA RELEASE

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New Broadband Data to be released next Thursday

Leading figures from the Irish telecommunications industry along with regional and governmental representatives will have the opportunity next Thursday 19th September 2002 to hear influential telecomms and regulatory experts present new research on the future delivery of broadband in Ireland and to discuss the new EU Regulatory Framework at the forthcoming ODTR national conference.

Entitled *Regulatory Challenges and Opportunities for the ICT Sector-New EU Framework, New Market Perspectives*, the conference will examine the impact of the new EU Directives, which must be implemented by next July, on the ICT industry in Ireland. **Peter Scott** from the European Commission will brief delegates as to the changes to come while the Telecoms Regulator **Etain Doyle** will interpret their impact on the Irish Market. **David Cleevely, Chairman of Analysys Consultants** and a member of the UK Cabinet subcommittee on e-commerce will examine new market perspectives and competition issues for the sector.

The ODTR has commissioned both MRBI and Ovum to carry out new research on broadband delivery and all its implications to further inform the debate in Ireland. **Ian McShane** of MRBI will present this new data on the demand profiles for broadband and internet usage while the costing and technological issues involved will be assessed by **Stewart Anderton** of Industry Consultants **Ovum**.

The ODTR is particularly pleased that world renowned telecommunications expert, **Professor Eli Noam** will deliver the key note address. Eli Noam is Professor of Economics and Finance at Columbia Business School and Director of the Columbia Institute for Tele-Information. He has researched and published extensively on global telecommunications and regulation and expresses the view that interconnection prices are to the telecoms sector what interest rates are to economic policy i.e. it is the key variable that determines the health of operators. Professor Noam advocates a new departure in regulatory philosophy and his views will certainly be interesting.

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