



Media Release- 6/1/2003

## **New Technology Could Advance DSL Deployment in Ireland**

ComReg today released a Briefing Note about future developments in digital subscriber line (DSL) technology which is one of the key technologies for delivering broadband communications services in Ireland. DSL is a type of always-on, broadband access that utilises existing copper telephone lines in the 'last mile' (local loop) between customers and network operators. Today's Briefing Note, which is part of ComReg's Forward-Looking Programme, outlines some of the new developments in DSL technology from very high capacity DSL to new, small and cheaper DSL switch equipment.

Among the technology developments reported in this Briefing Note is new smaller scale DSL equipment that could, for example, be used to deliver broadband services to areas away from the main urban centres. Two way high speed DSL technologies (e.g. SHDSL<sup>1</sup>) could provide cost effective communications solutions for many Irish SMEs, and more advanced technology such as very high speed DSL (VDSL) could eventually deliver residential and business users high quality video and Internet services.

While ADSL<sup>2</sup>, the most commonly used version of DSL, can typically deliver data rates between 5 and 50 times greater than the familiar 56 kbit/s dial-up modems, newer versions (e.g. VDSL<sup>3</sup>) could potentially provide some users with access over 900 times greater. This would enable the provision of an array of new broadband business and residential applications. The additional capacity provided by future DSL systems could enable operators to implement innovative new services and applications that could generate significant new sources of revenue for telecommunications service providers.

DSL is currently being deployed for business and residential use in Ireland. According to **Etain Doyle**, Chairperson of ComReg, "Although mainly ADSL has been deployed to date, new versions of DSL are being developed and are beginning to be implemented in Ireland and elsewhere." She also said that current retail pricing of DSL services remains very unsatisfactory and is a significant contributor to the persistent low DSL take-up levels in Ireland. The full document 03/01 can be viewed on [www.comreg.ie](http://www.comreg.ie)

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**Issued By: Deirdre Healy, Public Affairs Manager, ComReg**

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<sup>1</sup> Single pair High Speed DSL (SHDSL)

<sup>2</sup> Asymmetric DSL (ADSL) – A type of DSL that is typically used to deliver between 256kbit/s and 2Mbit/s to users.

<sup>3</sup> Very high speed DSL (VDSL) – A type of DSL under development that could potentially yield up to 52Mbit/s from a network to a user.