



Office of the Director of
**Telecommunications
Regulation**

MEDIA RELEASE

Friday 22nd March 2002

ODTR Briefing Note Series - Optical Access

The Office of the Director of Telecommunications Regulation (ODTR) today (Friday 22nd March 2002) issued a Briefing Note on Optical Access.

Optical access refers to the provision of local loop or last mile access by optical means, either by fibre optic or wireless optical links and networks. The high information carrying capacity of optical signals means that optical access constitutes a very high bandwidth alternative to other access technologies such as ADSL over copper, fixed wireless access and satellite connections. Optical access may be a prerequisite for some of the new and emerging bandwidth-intensive applications that are being developed in fields as diverse as education, medicine, research and entertainment.

According to the Telecoms Regulator “the deployment of broadband access in Ireland is taking place over various technologies, and optical access is a key element in ensuring that we have the broadband communications infrastructure and services that are critical for our future prosperity. Fibre optic technology is already being used for large capacity leased lines. In issuing this Briefing Note, it is my intention to inform and to encourage the industry and other interested parties to consider the prospects for expanding the deployment of optical access in Ireland.”

This Briefing Note has been produced as part of the ODTR’s Forward-Looking Programme and forms part of the Briefing Note Series¹. These documents are intended to inform and raise awareness with a view to encouraging development of Ireland’s telecommunications market. They are primarily aimed at non-

¹ ODTR Doc 01/59, ODTR Doc 01/88 and ODTR Doc 02/16

technical readers with some background knowledge of current telecommunications technology.

The Optical Access Briefing Note is available on the ODTR website www.odtr.ie odtr02/29. The Regulator welcomes comments from interested parties.

ENDS

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