



Office of the Director of
**Telecommunications
Regulation**

MEDIA RELEASE

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ODTR Reviews SMP in the Irish Telecommunications Market and makes new designations

Etain Doyle, Telecoms Regulator today (Friday 27th July 2001) announced her third determination of operators with Significant Market Power in the Irish telecommunications market.

Operators with significant market power (SMP) face additional obligations aimed, inter alia, at controlling the exercise of their market power. Operators in the markets prescribed by the EU interconnection regulations must have 25 per cent market share to be designated. The principal obligations placed on operators with SMP are to ensure that charges for access are cost oriented and for fixed networks to provide non-discriminatory access to the network.

The last review of SMP designations was in 1999. The new designations are based on the results of a review based on a questionnaire sent to all licensed operators which covered the period 1/1/00 to 31/12/00.

The main change in designations comes in the national market for interconnection where Esat Digifone is now designated with SMP in this market along with Eircell and eircom's designation in this market has been removed. Eircom however continues to have SMP in the retail fixed market, the network fixed market and the leased line market.

The change in designation of eircom in the national market for interconnection does not affect the existing obligations imposed on *eircom*, including its obligations under the interconnection regulations. This is because *eircom* has been designated as having SMP in the market for leased lines and the market for fixed network and services.

The respective market shares for this designation and the last one carried out in 1999 are detailed below

Market	1999	2000
Retail fixed market	Eircom 95%	Eircom 89%
Network fixed market	Eircom 94%	Eircom 92%
Mobile market	Eircell 64% Esat Digifone 36%	Eircell 62% Esat Digifone 38%
Leased lines	Eircom 95%	Eircom 96%
Interconnection market	Eircell 39% Esat Digifone 23%	Eircell 46% Esat Digifone 28%

In the mobile public telephony market Eircell and Esat Digifone remain designated and in the national market for interconnection eircom's designation is removed and Esat Digifone and Eircell are designated.

Internationally, mobile interconnect rates are significantly higher than fixed interconnect rates. It should be noted that Irish mobile interconnect rates when benchmarked against EU incumbents are mid table. The ODTR is currently developing its work programme to review mobile interconnection rates.

00/57 Significant Market Power in the Irish Telecommunications Sector - Decision Notice D10/01 can be viewed on the ODTR website www.odtr.ie .

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Issued By

**Brigid Smyth
Public Affairs Manager
ODTR
Ph: 01 804 9639
Mobile: 086 8270905**