



Office of the Director of  
**Telecommunications  
Regulation**

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

*For Immediate Release*  
18<sup>th</sup> January 2001

### **Further Progress made on implementation of Local Loop Unbundling**

Etain Doyle, Telecoms Regulator today (Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2001) issued an Information Notice (01/01) which addresses three specific areas regarding *eircom*'s Reference Access Offer that were of immediate concern.

#### **These were:**

- the definition of space available for collocation
- restrictions on equipment that can be collocated
- and the prohibition of collocation space sharing.

According to the Regulator “*eircom* published a reference offer for the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2000. I am pleased that three of the areas that were of immediate concern have now been addressed. The reference offer is an evolving document and we will continue to review the offer with a view to agreeing or directing further amendments as appropriate.” The Information Notice also sets out the next steps in implementing Local Loop Unbundling in Ireland.

#### **Definition of Space available for Collocation:**

The Director considers that the links made in the Reference Offer between rental of collocation space and request of loops are inconsistent with the LLU Regulation, which requires *eircom* to meet reasonable requests for unbundled access (which might or might not involve collocation). *eircom* has agreed to amend the text to meet this concern.

The Director welcomes *eircom*'s assurances that it will take OLO needs into account when planning development of space in its exchanges. Additionally, the Director welcomes *eircom*'s commitment to insert into the Offer the stipulation that development of Exchange Facilities by *eircom* may take place following consideration, on a case by case basis, of individual requests.

The Director is of the view that the Reference Offer may require further amendment, as the types of related facilities required by access seekers have been further defined. The Reference Offer should incorporate at least the most common sets of related facilities required by beneficiaries. However, it is important to note that beneficiaries are entitled to request access to related facilities whether or not these are encompassed by pre-defined bundles in *eircom*'s Reference Offer. To help clarify its position on meeting requests, *eircom* has committed to include in the preamble to the Reference Offer "This Reference Access Offer does not purport to be exhaustive of all the services *eircom* will provide and does not in any way diminish the rights of beneficiaries to seek additional services or the obligation on *eircom* to provide additional services under applicable law."

### **Restrictions on the equipment that can be collocated.**

The reference offer currently permits only ADSL and associated backhaul equipment to be used in collocation spaces. *Eircom* has agreed to amend it to take account of the following. The Director considers that an appropriate regime would involve *eircom* maintaining, on behalf of the industry, a list of equipment to which access seekers may append items. This list should be made available to all beneficiaries. Once a particular item of equipment has been appended to the list, beneficiaries should be free to deploy it in collocation spaces without the need to get further approvals or give further notification to *eircom*. *eircom* may however identify a list of information to be provided immediately prior to installation, all items on the list to be required only for the purposes of protecting health and safety and maintaining network integrity.

This approach should allow for rapid introduction of new types of equipment and hence accommodate innovation. It also gives full freedom to beneficiaries to employ notified types of equipment where they wish, preserving their commercial privacy.

### **Sharing of Collocation Space.**

*Eircom* in its offer assumed that each collocation space would be used by only one beneficiary. The ODTR believes that the sharing of collocation space has a useful role in facilitating the entry of the largest number of possible competitors in the market as it has the potential to reduce the minimum scale at which new entrants can enter the market. *eircom* has agreed to permitting sharing of collocation space and has agreed to amend the service schedule. While the Director considers that the exact form in which such arrangements might take place are a matter for the industry in the first instance, at a minimum it should allow for joint requests by beneficiaries for shared use of space.

### **Next steps:**

- The Director is awaiting material on sub-loop unbundling which is to be included in the Reference Offer by 31<sup>st</sup> January 2001. *eircom* has indicated that it needs information about the requirements of access seekers before it can make the relevant changes to its Reference Offer. The Director has asked the Chairman of the Definitions Group to discuss this with the access seekers and arrange for provision of a statement of requirements to *eircom* as soon as possible.
- The Director requires changes to be made to the Reference Offer to reflect agreed product definitions by 31<sup>st</sup> January 2001. The Director is aware that access seekers have further concerns with the Reference Offer. The ODTR will examine what action is required, with a view to agreeing or directing further amendments in mid February.
- The ODTR will continue its examination of *eircom*'s price justifications with a view to establishing the appropriate level of prices for LLU and related facilities. Final pricing will be agreed or determined by end February 2001 with price changes retrospective to 1<sup>st</sup> January 2001.

**Implementation of Local Loop Unbundling in Ireland – *eircom* Reference Access Offer - Information Notice 01/01 can be viewed on the ODTR website [www.odtr.ie](http://www.odtr.ie).**

**ENDS**

### **Issued by**

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