



Office of the Director of
**Telecommunications
Regulation**

PRESS RELEASE

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Rankings announced in “Wireless In The Local Loop” Competition

Following a competition for the right to operate FWPMA (Fixed Wireless Point to Multipoint Access) services, the Telecommunications Regulator, Etain Doyle has today (Tuesday) announced the names of the top ranked companies.

Four broadband and four narrowband licences are being offered. The term of these licences will be ten years.

Fixed Wireless Point to Multipoint Access – what is it

Fixed Wireless Point to Multipoint Access offers an alternative means to provide the connection from the customer’s premises to the nearest network access point for the provision of telecommunications services. It offers a radio-based alternative to copper or fibre optic cable.

Broadband

Broadband FWPMA will cater for the needs of medium to large users of telecommunications services, and will enable services such as broadband Internet access, multi-media, connecting ISDN PABXs, e-commerce and leased lines with flexible bandwidth. There were six applications in the competition for the four broadband licences, known as ‘A’ licences, which will allow operation at a frequency of 26 GHz.. As a result of the evaluation, the Regulator announces that the four higher ranked applications (in alphabetical order) are:

- **EIRCOM (applied as TELECOM EIREANN PLC)**
- **ESAT TELECOMMUNICATIONS LTD**
- **FORMUS COMMUNICATIONS IRELAND LTD**
- **PRINCES HOLDINGS LTD**

Narrowband

Narrowband FWPMA is an alternative to copper in the local loop, which at present connects the majority of residential and business customers to their local exchange, and will offer mainly basic telephony, Internet, e-commerce and ISDN connections, in both urban and rural areas.

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Narrowband B

In the narrowband competition, there are three types of licence. Applicants could apply for all three, but no applicant can be awarded more than one. The first, known as a 'B' licence, will allow operation at frequencies of 2 GHz and 3.5 GHz. There are two identical licences available. Five applications were received for these two licences. Following the evaluation process the Regulator announces that the two higher ranked applicants (in alphabetical order) are:

- **EIRCOM (applied as TELECOM EIREANN PLC)**
- **PRINCES HOLDINGS LTD**

Narrowband C

The second category of licence in the narrowband competition, the 'C' licence, will allow operation at a frequency of 2.4 GHz. There were two applications for this licence. As a result of the preference for the B licence by one of the applicants who was ranked higher for both the B and C licences, the ranked applicant conditionally, for the C licence is:

- **ESAT TELECOMMUNICATIONS LTD**

Narrowband D

The third licence category in the narrowband competition is known as the 'D' licence, which allows operation at a frequency of 10.5 GHz. There was no eligible application for this licence. The Regulator is considering what action she should take to make this licence available in the future.

The Regulator has commenced drafting licence texts, which will include the incorporation of certain conditions based on the individual applications, for the respective higher ranked applicants in the A, B and C licence competitions.

All the licences were applied for, and the Regulator remarked 'I was delighted with the quality and depth of the applications. There were clear signs of innovative approaches and a good understanding of customer needs. It is apparent that in the hands of new licensees FWPMA will make a significant contribution to quality, competition and prices in the telecommunications services market in Ireland.'

**For further press information please contact Eric Tomkins,
ODTR, Tel. 01-8049642**

Note to Editors:

Background to competition

Earlier this year, the Telecommunications Regulator, Eoin Doyle, launched a competition for the right to operate FWPMA (Fixed Wireless Point to Multipoint Access) services, or wireless in the local loop, in Ireland. The Regulator established a Steering Group that has been responsible for the evaluation of applications and management of the selection process. Andersen Management International of Copenhagen was appointed to assist in the competition.

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An information memorandum (ODTR 99/07) about the licensing process was published when the competition was launched in February of this year and is available on our website at www.odtr.ie/docs/odtr9907.doc.

As there were more applications than licences available in both the broadband and narrowband competitions, it was necessary for the Regulator to have a detailed comparative evaluation carried out to decide on the ranking of the applications.

The current announcement relates to ranking in the competition. Licence award will come later when the legal requirement regarding acceptance and notification etc are met.

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