



Office of the Director of  
**Telecommunications  
Regulation**

**MEDIA RELEASE**

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## **Regulator accepts ntl's Guarantee on MMDS Digital Roll Out**

ntl has guaranteed to Telecoms Regulator **Etain Doyle** that ninety-five percent of homes covered by ntl's MMDS licensed systems in Dublin, Waterford and Galway will be capable of receiving a digital service by 1 June 2003. If these services are not available by this date, ntl has guaranteed that a bond of €100,000 will become payable to the Regulator. In addition, from the 1 June 2003, subscribers in the affected licensed area(s) will be entitled to a reduction of €2 in their monthly bill until the service is capable of being received. The duration of the MMDS licences in these areas is also being reduced by two years.

The ODTR has had discussions with ntl over almost two years about its failure to comply with the terms of its MMDS licences in the three areas. In early 2000, in an effort to ensure that consumers got full digital service the Director gave ntl the opportunity to review its business plan. ntl indicated to the Director that it intended to sell its MMDS business and engaged in discussion with interested parties. ntl has now informed the Office that it intends to digitise the systems itself and that the process will be completed by 1 June 2003.

Etain Doyle said "while I am disappointed that ntl MMDS subscribers to date have not been able to enjoy digital services, these proposals mean that ntl subscribers will be able to avail of digital services by 1 June 2003. ntl indicates that it has fully committed everything needed to achieving this. If not achieved, the consumers will be entitled to compensation from ntl".

ntl **cable licences** in Galway, Waterford and Dublin **are not affected** by this announcement.

The current ntl analogue price, which was set in 1998, remains unchanged.

**ENDS**

### **Issued By**

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