



Office of the Director of
**Telecommunications
Regulation**

PRESS RELEASE

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REGULATOR MOVES TO DEVELOP THE MARKET FOR SATELLITE SERVICES

Proposals for a new licensing scheme for satellite services were issued today by the Telecommunications Regulator, Eoin Doyle. The proposed regulatory framework provides for the establishment and operation of earth stations for space related radiocommunications.

From deep space exploration to telephony, from weather forecasting to the distribution of television signals, advances in new technology and their application to satellite communications have resulted in a diverse range of new services becoming available. The Regulator recognises that satellite networks, as an alternative means of communicating, can provide a valuable addition to the telecommunications infrastructure in Ireland.

“Satellite communications can be particularly cost effective, with the minimum of infrastructure requirements enabling access to remote regions in concise timeframes,” the Regulator said. “Satellite networks are truly global and while this consultation is focussed on developing a regulatory framework for satellite licensing in Ireland, my Office intends to actively participate in the development of a harmonised licensing process for satellite operators across Europe”.

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Five categories of licences are proposed including public telecommunications, Very Small Aperture Terminals (VSATs) and certain types of transportable and receive only earth stations. It is proposed that licences would be generally issued for a period of one year, subject to payment of fees on an annual basis.

The new regime replaces a limited permit scheme for satellite links. It will position satellite use on a similar basis to other radio links used for telecommunications, with published guidelines and a complete licensing framework

“Opening the Market for Satellite services” ODTR 99/09 can be viewed on the ODTR website at www.odtr.ie. The closing date for comments is 5pm on Tuesday, 8th June, 1999.

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