Office of the Director of
**Telecommunications
Regulation**

# PRESS RELEASE

## REGULATOR MOVES TO LICENCE TERRESTRIAL TRUNKED RADIO (TETRA)

The Director of Telecommunications Regulation today issued proposals for the future licensing of public and private digital trunked radio (TETRA) services.

TETRA (Terrestrial Trunked Radio) is a mobile communications service aimed at professional business users, which can deliver a broad range of voice and data services in both public and private networks such as communications for transport fleet management or on a major construction site. Many of the infrastructural and technical issues currently associated with two-way business radio communications will be effectively overcome by TETRA as a service provider will provide users with a broad based infrastructure which they can then tailor to their own specific needs.

The Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform announced last year that the Garda National Radio Network is to be replaced by a state-of-the-art system using TETRA technology.  The Regulator is now seeking to establish the likely future demand for other TETRA services in Ireland.

"As an advanced digital technology, TETRA can provide users with mobile access to the latest on-line and electronic commerce applications, while retaining the traditional business radio benefits of instant, cost-effective communication between individuals and groups" said the Regulator. "TETRA services are currently being rolled out in a number of European countries and experience with similar technology in the USA has shown there is a sizeable potential market for the functionality offered. I believe that the introduction of such services in Ireland would create further choice and diversity for users of business mobile communications, " she added.

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It is proposed to offer two national public licences (TETRA PAMR).  This is based on the current estimates of the availability of suitable radio spectrum and the anticipated minimum radio spectrum requirement per operator to provide a national TETRA service. Depending upon the responses to this consultation the development of a licensing framework for private TETRA networks may also be considered.

The document **ODTR 00/11 "Extending Choice …Opening the Market for Terrestrial Trunked Radio (TETRA) - Consultation Paper"** can be viewed on the ODTR web-site (http://www.odtr.ie).

Responses to the Consultation Paper are requested by 5.00 p.m. on the 25th March, 2000.

**ENDS**