



Office of the Director of  
**Telecommunications  
Regulation**

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

*For Immediate Release  
Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2000*

### **REGULATOR PUBLISHES NEW DECISION NOTICE**

### **ON *EIRCOM*'S REFERENCE INTERCONNECT OFFER -RIO**

The Telecoms Regulator has concluded a further review of *eircom*'s Reference Interconnect Offer (RIO) with the publication of Decision Notice D07/00. This follows a consultation that was carried out following the publication of a consultation document in February 2000.

This new decision outlines the Director's position on a number of key issues of importance to the industry. *eircom* will in future be required to offer Service Level Agreements against delivery of interconnect circuits and will for the first time be required to pay penalties for failing to deliver on the timeframes specified. It also details the process to be followed by *eircom* when introducing new interconnect products for its own retail arm and other licensed operator's (OLO's).

The Regulator said "The *eircom* RIO is an important document in that it sets out the basis upon which OLOs may interconnect their network's with the *eircom* network. I expect it to evolve as the requirements of the market develop. The telecommunications market in Ireland is fast moving and dynamic – the evolution and development of the interconnection regime will have to keep pace with that market."

**ODTR 00/31 - "eircom's Reference Interconnect Offer (RIO) – Decision Notice D07/00"**  
can be viewed on the ODTR web-site (<http://www.odtr.ie>).

**ENDS**

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### **Note to Editors**

Interconnection is the term describing the connection of one network with another.

New entrants have to connect with eircom's network as it takes a number of years for them to build a nation-wide network of their own. The RIO sets out eircom's stall of interconnection services for these operators and the charges for those services.

Individual operators can then choose the elements they require to build their services and negotiate a specific agreement with eircom on those issues. The existence of the RIO gives new entrants and operators a starting point from which to negotiate. In a market where eircom is by far the strongest player, this is an essential tool for new players.