



Office of the Director of
**Telecommunications
Regulation**

MEDIA RELEASE

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Regulator to permit short-range public access services using technologies such as bluetooth, Hiperlan and IEEE 802.11

Etain Doyle, Telecoms Regulator today (Tuesday 4th September 2001) confirmed that she will permit the provision of short range public access services in the 2.4GHz and 5GHZ bands using technologies which are exempt from licensing under the Wireless Telegraphy Acts. The Regulator also announced that the ODTR is to conduct a full review of the Fixed Wireless Access in Ireland with a view to licensing further FWA spectrum.

Commenting on the licensing of short range public access services she said " this will enable network operators and their customers to gain full advantage from emerging high speed data standards such as Bluetooth, Hiperlan, and IEEE 802.11 series of radio local area network (RLAN) products, many of which are now readily available in the Irish Market place. It may also suit some private uses such as campus connections.

Operators will be free to use these bands subject to certain technical restrictions, on a non-exclusive basis. If offering services to the public they will need to have an appropriate telecommunications service licence. This facility may be useful either to complement their existing licensed services or to provide localised services in areas not currently served."

ENDS

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Note to the Editor:

Fixed Wireless Access ('FWA'), often referred to as Wireless in the Local Loop (WLL), is a way of connecting a subscriber to a telecommunications network using radio rather than traditional copper/fibre optic wires.

IEEE 802.11 is a series of low power, short range wireless technologies that can be deployed in radio local area network and fixed wireless access type applications, providing data transmission up to 11 Mbit/s. **Hiperlan** is similar technology that extends this data rate to 20 Mbit/s and beyond. **Bluetooth** is a new technology intended to provide very short-range data connections to mobile phones, laptop computers and similar devices.