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Single Billing launch for 2 June after Validation Testing

As part of an initiative to stimulate the market, ComReg has been working with the industry over the past nine months to develop and launch a number of CPS Single Billing products (namely Single Billing through Wholesale Line Rental (SB-WLR) and Single Billing through Agency Rebilling (SB-AR). Achieving agreement on the various stages of development has been slower than expected owing to the level of complexity involved and the attention to detail necessary for these product and processes to be robust and fit-for-purpose. ComReg has therefore decided to delay slightly the initial launch until 2nd June 2003. The new date, one month later than previously fixed, will allow inter-operator product testing and validation to be completed in advance of a commercial launch. ComReg wants to ensure that the wholesale line rental product, which is an extremely technically complex product, operates satisfactorily before being made available to the market.

While development of the products, processes and billing information exchange is far advanced and inter-operator testing has commenced, complete full Service Establishment Testing (SET) between eircom and another operator has yet to be done.

ComReg has frozen the product description (version L) as agreed by industry with the exception of the NDD (National Directory Database) and the treatment of subscriber entries. ComReg is taking this approach to ensure on time implementation which will allow for fully tested fit-for-purpose offerings to be available from 2nd June 2003. The National Directory Database will now be dealt with as a matter of urgency by a separate working group already initiated by ComReg. The results of this working group will be used to amend the SB-WLR product descriptions as soon as possible

ComReg considers the availability of wholesale line rental will stimulate a competitive market, provide for effective competition, encourage economic efficiency, and provide benefit to end users. Ireland will be one of the first countries in Europe to launch a single billing product.

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Issued By

Deirdre Healy

Public Affairs Manager, ComReg

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