



Office of the Director of
**Telecommunications
Regulation**

MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Telecoms Regulator to conduct major analysis on Asymmetric Digital Subscriber Line (ADSL)

Etain Doyle, Telecoms Regulator today Thursday (21st December 2000) announced that she is to conduct a detailed analysis on the possibilities of delivering Licensed Programme Services over ADSL and Telecommunications networks in the New Year. The Regulator intends to conduct a detailed examination on how and whether this may be achieved.

The review, which will commence in the New Year, will focus on:

- The results of the ADSL trials currently being conducted by eircom and other licensed operators, in terms of the suitability of the system to carry Licensed Programme Services.
- The capacity of the network's backbone to cope with the extra traffic generated by the provision of services including Licensed Programme Services.
- If and how roll out obligations might apply to ADSL.
- The incumbent's obligations with regard to other licensed operators particularly in relation to the European Regulation on unbundling the local loop¹

¹ The Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on Unbundled Access to the Local Loop [EC xx 2000/0185].

- The need to facilitate competition for the benefit of Irish consumers and businesses

According to the Regulator “ ADSL is ideally suited to high speed Internet and interactive services. It could also be used for the delivery of digital television channels. Trials are ongoing and as yet are incomplete. The technological capacity and limitations of ADSL is not fully known further analysis is justified”. She continued “ whether or not ADSL is a viable option has yet to be decided. The provision of ADSL services require considerable investment from the operators.”

Earlier this year the Director of Telecommunications Regulation issued a consultation paper, which sought views on the following issues:

- The technical capacity of ADSL to deliver licensed programme services over the telecommunications backbone
- Whether delivery of programme services by such means would interfere with the delivery of traditional voice telephony and other services
- The commercial feasibility of providing programme services via ASDL in range of regulatory environments
- The offerings operators propose to make

13 responses were received from a wide range of interested parties. The Director is now satisfied that the demand exists for these services and will shortly commence further analysis.

ODTR 00/98 “Response to the Consultation Delivery of License Programme Services” can be viewed on the ODTR website .www.odtr.ie.

ENDS

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Note for Editors

ADSL (Asymmetric Digital Subscriber Line)

This is a technology that allows the use of a copper line to send a large quantity of data in one direction and a small quantity and a telephone call in the other. ADSL is asymmetric in that it uses most of the channel to transmit downstream to the user and only a small part to receive information from the user. It was designed to exploit the one way nature of most multimedia communication in which large amounts of information flow towards the user and only a small amount of interactive control information is returned.