



Office of the Director of
**Telecommunications
Regulation**

MEDIA RELEASE

31 August 2001

Telecoms Regulator to consult on role that regionally or locally based DTT may play in the television delivery market.

Etain Doyle, Telecoms Regulator today (Friday 31st August 2001) issued a consultation paper, which sets out the possibilities for providing digital television services on a regional or local basis.

Under the Broadcasting Act 2001 the Director may issue licences for additional multiplexes above and beyond the six that the Minister will directly deal with under the Act. Similarly, the Director may issue further licences to other entities in respect of transmission facilities.

According to the Regulator " One of our key objectives is to create conditions to enable the optimum development of digital services in Ireland. The aim is to facilitate general access to competitive high quality digital TV services. I have an obligation to ensure that spectrum is used efficiently and effectively. Therefore, before determining whether to licence delivery platforms, I must be satisfied that the intended use of the spectrum is appropriate and that an alternative use would not be more fitting."

There appears to be some interest in the provision of regional and local Digital Terrestrial Television. The Director is anxious to establish what interest exists for the

provision of these services either in the 12GHz band or the UHF band, and weigh up the advantages and disadvantages of licensing terrestrial audio-visual services at 12GHz.

On foot of this consultation should any licensing scheme be set up the award of such licences would be by means of a competitive process.

The consultation paper 01/69 " Licensing Regional or Locally based Digital Television Delivery - Consultation Paper " is now available on the ODTR website www.odtr.ie .The Director welcomes comments from interested parties. The closing date for receipt of comments is 12th October 2001.

ENDS

Issued By

Brigid Smyth

Public Affairs Manager

ODTR

Ph: 01 804 9639

Mobile: 086 8270905

(The 12GHz band is used for satellite TV services. The UHF band is where most analogue TV is transmitted and National DTT is planned to operate)