



Wireless Innovation

Unique opportunities for testing and trialling

To help encourage and maximise the use of radio spectrum for the benefit of industry and research in Ireland ComReg has launched a new wireless initiative. Under this scheme ComReg will make spectrum available for testing and trialling innovative new systems and services. Facilitating access to radio spectrum, particularly for innovative technologies and services, is a key objective of ComReg's spectrum management strategy, and this initiative aims to give users access to the right spectrum at the right time.

Ireland possesses some unique advantages compared to its European neighbours. We have a well-developed high-tech sector with many leading global ICT companies. Ireland's position on the western edge of Europe and its low population density mean that the radio frequency spectrum is relatively un-congested. For the most part frequencies can be made available as and where required. These natural advantages mean that Ireland is ideally positioned as a test-bed for companies seeking to test and develop new products and services over existing and emerging service bands (for example, using European, North American and Asian technologies).



Wireless Research

The spirit of wireless research and innovation in Ireland goes back to Marconi's transatlantic transmissions 100 years ago. Basic research in the fields of radio science and engineering continues to play an important role in Ireland today. Examples of wireless research range from the study of propagation effects to device and applications testing.

Product Development and Testing

A fast moving wireless industry is continuously creating opportunities for manufacturers of wireless systems and components. Test and development are crucial processes in the creation of innovative wireless solutions. ComReg's new test and trial licensing initiative provides considerable opportunities for manufacturers to test and develop systems intended for use in European and other markets.

Trials of Innovative Services

Companies seeking to carry out commercial trials of new services that involve actual test customers are facilitated under the trial licence scheme. This gives service providers the opportunity to develop innovative new services in a realistic environment.



The ComReg Wireless Opportunities Initiative

This initiative provides a flexible scheme to help encourage wireless innovation in Ireland at the forefront of the international wireless sector, without affecting existing users of radio spectrum. A key part of this initiative is to facilitate the development of new systems which are not yet fully standardised, giving companies in Ireland an advantage over international competitors. The scheme also facilitates the testing and manufacture of systems destined for deployment in foreign markets, where different standards and regulations may apply.

Who needs to apply for a test licence?

Anyone interested in carrying out tests on wireless systems in Ireland. Examples of users who may benefit from the initiative include universities, research institutions and wireless systems manufacturers.

Who needs to apply for a trial licence?

This category of licence is for trialling commercial wireless systems and typically applies to service providers or wireless systems developers. If you are interested in carrying out commercial trials, we recommend that you contact the ComReg licensing team directly.

Why should I apply for a licence?

A test licence allows you to carry out research in spectrum that would not be possible under other licensing regimes. It allows you to operate without the fear of causing disruption to other users of spectrum.

How long will it take to obtain a licence?

ComReg is committed to turning around licence applications as soon as possible, typically within 10 days after receipt of a completed application.

How long will my licence last for?

Licences are typically granted for up to one year. If more time is needed for testing, users can re-apply to extend their time.

I am working on a tight research budget, will a licence cost much?

No, the ComReg fees are minimal in order to stimulate research and innovation at all levels.

- For a test licence the fee is €200 per 12 months, scaled per month down to a minimum fee of €100, e.g. for 9 months the fee is €150 (i.e. €200 x 9/12).
- For a trial licence, the fee is €500 per 12 months, scaled per month down to a minimum fee of €100.

How do I apply for a test licence?

There are two ways of applying for a wireless test or trial licence:

- Use the online application form at www.elicensing.comreg.ie
- Download the application form from www.comreg.ie and submit it by post

Would you like more information?

If you have further questions concerning the wireless opportunities initiative please:

- See the Test and Trial licence guidance notes. www.comreg.ie - ComReg Doc. 05/35
- Contact the ComReg Licensing Team
Tel: 1890 252 050
WirelessOpportunities@comreg.ie

ERICSSON 

Ericsson has been testing wireless systems including 3G technology in Ireland since 1995. 'The wireless testing we carry out in Ireland is an important part of our international business'.
Frank Monahan,
Ericsson Ireland.

O₂

O2 successfully tested an innovative broadband wireless service in Donegal in early 2005. "The test licence process allowed O2 to evaluate wireless solutions for the provision of broadband services to households and small business in rural Ireland",
Robert Mourik, O2.