



Commission for
Communications Regulation

NBP bidders - queries and clarifications process.

Information Notice

Information Notice

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Additional Information

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1. The National Broadband Plan (“NBP”) is the Irish Government’s plan to provide for high speed broadband in non-commercial areas. It is the responsibility of the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment (“DCCA”). On the 22 December 2015 DCCA published the NBP Intervention Strategy – which was updated in December 2015. It is now engaged in a process of competitive dialogue with prospective bidders.
2. ComReg is the statutory body responsible for the regulation of the electronic communications sector.
3. ComReg understands that interested parties may wish to gain insight into the possible interaction between the NBP and regulation and may wish to discuss these matters with us. While we believe that it is appropriate for ComReg to engage with industry players and other stakeholders on matters of mutual interest, we are conscious of the need to make sure that all industry players are treated equally and transparently. This is particularly relevant to the proposed NBP bid process. We note that we are unable to provide any guidance as to the outcome of future regulatory decisions that is not already in the public domain and we cannot fetter our discretion in respect of such future decisions.
4. Nevertheless there may be areas where we can provide guidance on certain matters and we propose to do so in as transparent a manner as possible. Accordingly we propose that if parties interested in the NBP have questions that are relevant to ComReg that these be submitted to us in writing. We will publish such questions, suitably anonymized together with our responses as soon as possible thereafter. We propose to allow for the submission of such questions until the end of the competitive dialogue period.
5. Where an interested party considers that its queries / clarifications should be kept confidential, we request that the interested party specifies what precise elements, it believes should be treated in this way. However where such material is not published, it is unlikely that ComReg will be in a position to provide any feedback or clarity. We draw interested parties’ attention to our confidentiality guidelines published as, ComReg Document No. 05/24.
6. Interested parties are also referred to our Document No. 14/126 entitled “National Broadband Plan – Call for Input on Regulatory Implications” dated 4 December 2014 and its associated response in ComReg Document No. 15/57 “National Broadband Plan - Response to the Call for Input” dated 18 June 2015.
7. Relevant queries should be sent to maire.fitzgerald@comreg.ie.