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ComReg market report shows further broadband take-up for first quarter of 2009 despite downturn

The Commission for Communications Regulation (ComReg) today released its Quarterly Report for the period Q1 2009. While broadband subscriptions continued to increase during the quarter, overall revenues and voice traffic declined. This suggests that the communications sector is experiencing more challenging times, in common with many other sectors at present.

- This quarter, total internet subscriptions increased to 1,472,599. This represents a growth rate of 2.4% since last quarter and 14.9% on Q1 2008.
- Broadband subscriptions (fixed and mobile) continued to increase, reaching 1,272,166 this quarter. This represents an increase of 6% since the last quarter and 28.2% on Q1 2008.
- Broadband per capita penetration reached 28.8% this quarter including mobile broadband.
- Reductions in narrowband internet subscriptions accelerated this quarter, declining by 15.6% and 30.8% since Q1 2008 to 200,433.
- Mobile per capita penetration (inc. HSDPA) was 119% in Q1 2009. Excluding HSDPA, the penetration rate was 111%.
- Overall market revenues continued to decline this quarter by 6.3% to almost €1.04 billion. Fixed revenues retain the dominant share at 50.9%, followed by mobile (44.6%) and broadcasting (4.5%).
- Total voice traffic minutes decreased by 8.5% this quarter to approximately 4.7 billion minutes, partly due to a correction in mobile traffic reporting. Mobile minutes represent the majority of voice minutes at 53%, with fixed minutes accounting for the remainder.

The full report (ComReg document 09/50) is available on the ComReg website www.comreg.ie

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