



Media Release- 21 April 2005

## **ComReg welcomes reductions in eircom co-location charges**

ComReg has today welcomed reductions in charges paid by telecoms operators for the use of eircom's phone exchanges to provide broadband services.

These charges, known as co-location charges, are charged by eircom to operators who install their equipment in eircom exchanges in order to provide broadband through local loop unbundling.

These competing operators can provide broadband services to customers, independently of eircom, by connecting their own equipment to eircom's phone lines through a process known as local loop unbundling.

As part of an ongoing process initiated by ComReg, to facilitate the roll-out of competitive broadband services, ComReg has recently undertaken a review of eircom's prices for co-location associated with Local Loop Unbundling.

Eircom has today published a revised pricing schedule for this co-location. Prices have been reduced by approximately 17%. ComReg believes that these new prices, coupled with other recent initiatives in relation to LLU, will help to further stimulate competition in the broadband market.

Note for editors

The local loop is the copper connection between a local telephone exchange and a customer's premise. The vast majority of local loops are owned by Eircom. Eircom is legally obliged to give access to other operators to these loops so that they may provide their own services to customers. This is the process known as local loop unbundling.

ENDS

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