



Media Release- 22 March 2006

Irish-Austrian Consortium wins competition for the provision of ENUM services in Ireland

The Commission for Communications Regulation (ComReg) has today announced that the IENUM consortium has won the competition to provide Ireland with a single Registry for the supply of ENUM services.

The IENUM consortium is comprised of Ireland's internet domain registry body (IEDR) and the Internet Foundation of Austria. IENUM will now be charged with providing a full commercial offering of ENUM services in the coming months.

In addition to awarding IENUM the right to operate the ENUM Tier 1 Registry for Ireland, ComReg has set up an industry ENUM Policy Advisory Board to ensure that ENUM moves from trial phase to full commercial launch.

ComReg looks forward to working closely with IENUM as it commences work on the new Irish commercial ENUM infrastructure. ComReg believes this service will prove highly beneficial in encouraging Irish consumers to adopt new and converged services (such as VoIP, next generation networks (NGNs) and Fixed-Mobile convergence) as these emerge and grow over the coming period.

What is ENUM?

Have you ever wanted to contact someone by email or fax or mobile phone but only have their fixed-line telephone number? ENUM (Electronic Numbering) is an emerging telecoms protocol that enables you to do exactly that.

ENUM is an addressing protocol that enables a range of communications mechanisms to be used to contact a participating customer. ENUM is a communications service into which users opt for on a voluntary basis. It is capable of giving you any type of address that a telephony consumer cares to register (e.g. web URL, email address, Fax number, mobile number or an IP number).

ENUM automatically returns the set of corresponding contact addresses when someone's telephone number is entered, making it easy for service providers to then automate an actual connection over the most appropriate, efficient and cost-effective medium.

The evolution of ENUM in Ireland was initiated by ComReg, with support from the Department of Communications, Marine and Natural Resources. Many countries are carrying out ENUM trials but Ireland is now only the third EU country, after Austria and Germany, to move fully into commercial operation. The UK will follow suit later this year and North America (i.e. country code "1") in 2007 following the latter's 12-month ENUM trial which has recently started

The IENUM Consortium

The new IENUM consortium consists of IEDR of Ireland and IPA of Austria. IEDR is the ".ie" Domain Name Registry, which provides the service underlying all Irish .ie domain names.

IPA is very experienced organisation in the operation of ENUM and it provides the Austrian ".at" domain name service, as well as the world's first commercial ENUM service.

ENDS

Issued By

Tom Butler

Public Affairs Manager, ComReg

Ph: 01 804 9639 Mobile: 087 2536358

tom.butler@comreg.ie

Explanatory Information and Abbreviations:

ENUM (short for tElephone NUMber Mapping) is an Internet protocol as well as a physical Domain Name Registry architecture.

IEDR means .ie Domain Name Registry

IPA is the Austrian organisation that operates the .at domain name and which provided the first ENUM commercial registry service

DNS means the Internet domain name service, which ensures that domains such as www.comreg.ie can be converted to an Internet Protocol (IP) address of the type 123.134.145.156 which could be understood by Internet routers.

VoIP means Voice over Internet Protocol, which is a service using packet-based IP technology to compete very effectively with traditional PSTN voice.

The winning organisation IENUM will provide the top level Tier 1 ENUM service for Ireland, under which a range of competing Tier 2 name-service providers will authenticate and subscribe customers to the service.