



Commission for
Communications Regulation

Media Release - 22 December 2006

ComReg gives green light to iTrips and range of radio applications

The Commission for Communications Regulation (ComReg) today announced that low power, short range FM transmitter devices such as iTrip-type devices can now be used in Ireland, subject to certain conditions. These devices may be used to wirelessly connect personal audio devices, such as MP3 players, to car radios. There is expected to be high consumer demand for these types of devices and ComReg's enabling provision will facilitate the use of these devices in Ireland.

This measure is one of a number of "interface requirements" contained in ComReg document 06/47R which paves the way for a range of radio applications including for example Radio Frequency IDentification (RFID) devices in the 865 - 868 MHz band and new wireless services in the 1785 – 1805 MHz band to be licensed under the co-ordinated ComReg/Ofcom licensing scheme in 2007.

The use of RFID applications is expected to increase significantly over the next few years as, for example, retailers such as supermarkets and their suppliers implement the technology in place of bar codes for automated stock control.

The co-ordinated award of spectrum at 1785 – 1805 MHz in Ireland and Northern Ireland marks a new milestone in co-operation between ComReg and the Office of Communications (Ofcom) in the UK. The award of licences in Ireland and Northern Ireland is an innovative approach to optimising the use of the radio spectrum for the benefit of consumers across the island of Ireland. ComReg's interface requirements for spectrum access in the 1785 – 1805 MHz band will permit the use of that radio spectrum on a service-neutral and technology-neutral basis.

Suppliers, retailers and users are reminded that all radio and telecommunications terminal equipment placed on the market in Ireland is required to comply with the R&TTE Directive.

Notes to Editors

The FM radio band is 87.5 - 108 MHz and is the primary frequency band in Ireland for audio broadcasting.

Interface requirements are the technical and administrative conditions in place for the use of the radio services e.g. frequency bands, power levels and licensing regime. The interface requirements are shown in ComReg document 06/47R available on www.comreg.ie.

The co-ordinated ComReg/Ofcom licensing scheme is a joint effort between Ireland and the UK to offer licences, on a technology-neutral and service-neutral basis, for use across the whole of the island of Ireland. This licence process was launched on 14 December 2006.

The European Radio and Telecommunications Terminal Equipment (R&TTE) Directive (1999/5/EC) establishes a framework for placing on the market, free movement and putting into service of radio equipment and telecommunications terminal equipment in the European Community. It was transposed into Irish law by Statutory Instrument 240 of 2001. Under the R&TTE Directive each Member State is required to notify the interface requirements for the use of radio equipment in its country. ComReg's notification gives certainty to manufacturers and to users on the requirements applicable to the use of radio equipment in Ireland.

ENDS

Issued By

Tom Butler

Public Affairs Manager, ComReg

Ph: 01 804 9639

Mobile: 087 2536358

tom.butler@comreg.ie