



**Media Release- 29th March, 2006**

## **ComReg's latest Quarterly Report shows continued growth in Broadband take-up**

The Commission for Communications Regulation (ComReg) today published its latest Quarterly Report for the fourth quarter of 2005 – which highlights a number of key trends in the electronic communications sector.

The broadband market continues to grow strongly in Ireland with over 270,000 subscribers at the end of December 2005. Over 58,000 new broadband subscribers were added in the fourth quarter of 2005, compared with just over 34,000 net additions in the previous quarter. 31% of all Internet subscribers are now using some form of broadband as their means of access compared with 17% of all internet subscriptions at the end of 2004.

An increasing proportion of broadband subscribers are using technologies other than DSL for their broadband access. Cable broadband, fixed wireless, satellite and fibre subscriptions combined now account for around 25% of all broadband subscriptions.

Other highlights of the report include:

The electronic communications market was valued at just over €4 billion in 2005. 48% of this revenue was generated by the mobile sector.

Alternative operators' provision of Carrier Pre-Select (CPS) and Wholesale Line Rental (WLR) services has increased by 19% since December 2004. By December 2005 almost 200,000 lines were being supplied by operators, other than eircom, using the single-billing/wholesale line rental product.

There are now 4.2 million mobile subscriptions in the Irish market, equivalent to a mobile penetration rate of 102%.

Almost 500,000 mobile subscribers have switched operator while keeping their number since the launch of Mobile Number Portability (MNP) in June 2003. Over 80,000 numbers were ported during the fourth quarter of 2005.

Some mobile price reductions in the period under review led to an improvement in Irish mobile tariffs relative to other EU countries.

The report also includes an "Emerging Trends" section which this quarter examines fixed wireless broadband - currently the fastest growing broadband platform in the Irish market. The full Quarterly Report- ComReg 06/15 is available on the ComReg website [www.comreg.ie](http://www.comreg.ie)

**ENDS**

**Issued By**

**Tom Butler**

**Public Affairs Manager, ComReg**

**Ph: 01 804 9639 Mobile: 087 2536358**

**[tom.butler@comreg.ie](mailto:tom.butler@comreg.ie)**

Note to Editors:

In conjunction with the publication of the Q4 2005 Quarterly Report, ComReg is reissuing the Q3 2005 report (05/92R) which contains some revised data on fixed revenues and mobile tariff baskets.

A summary of the revised figures contained within the report is summarised on page 5 of the revised document.