



Office of the Director of
**Telecommunications
Regulation**

MEDIA RELEASE

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Next Generation Networks - ODTR Briefing Note Series

The Office of the Director of Telecommunications Regulation (ODTR) today (Friday 16th November 2001) issued a technology briefing note on Next Generation Networks. The document examines the next generation of network technologies and applications to see how they will develop over the next 5 to 10 years. It also identifies some of the opportunities such networks may provide to operators and users alike.

It is envisaged that these Next Generation Networks will be based on high-speed packet technologies that will enable multiple services such as voice, video and data to be integrated and efficiently carried over the same infrastructures. These networks will be more than just upgrades of current circuit switched networks. They will require major changes in network architectures affecting the ways in which operators deliver services. These changes in network architectures should enable operators to save on operational costs while allowing them the flexibility to more easily provision new capacity and services.

According to the Regulator, Eoin Doyle “There is little doubt that next generation applications in areas such as e-business, tele-presence, tele-medicine and tele-education will play an important part in the rapidly evolving ‘Information Age’, and it is important that Ireland is well prepared. In particular we need to consider whether there are any possibilities for leapfrogging forward in terms of whole networks or key elements.”

This briefing note has been produced as part of the ODTR's Forward-looking Programme and forms part of the Briefing Note Series launched in August¹. These documents are intended to inform and raise awareness with a view to encouraging development of Ireland's telecommunications market. They are primarily aimed at non-technical readers with some background knowledge of current telecommunications technology.

The Briefing Note on Next Generation Networks is available on the ODTR website www.odtr.ie document 01/88 . The Director welcomes comments from interested parties.

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¹ ODTR Doc. 01/59