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ComReg finalises competition for Spectrum in the 26GHz band

The Commission for Communications Regulation (ComReg) has today published a finalised Information Memorandum detailing the licence award process for more than 1,000 MHz of national spectrum in the 26 GHz frequency band. The competition is offering up to 18 lots of spectrum.

The licences will have the following general rights and obligations:

- Each national channel consists of 2 x 28 MHz of spectrum in the 26 GHz band.
- These licences will provide for the provision of point-to-point (P2P) and point-to-multipoint (PMP) fixed links.
- A reserve price of €350,000 has been placed on each of the national licences on offer.
- If demand exceeds supply then the licences will be awarded via an auction in which applicants may make bids in excess of the reserve price.
- Any one applicant cannot bid for more than six national licences.
- The principle of technology-neutrality is applied to these national licences.

In November 2007, ComReg published this Information Memorandum in draft format seeking views from interested parties. ComReg has taken account of the issues raised by the respondents in this finalised memorandum.

Fixed Access technology in the microwave bands continues to advance and this spectrum has been set aside for the provision of national licences in order to meet the needs of growing data and telecommunications networks. This spectrum is suitable for a number of applications including broadband backhaul, network connectivity between the network core and a network access node (e.g. a GSM base-station) or end-user.

ComReg Commissioner Mike Byrne said "ComReg believes that making available new national licences will offer high demand volume users of 26 GHz spectrum greater flexibility in their use of spectrum and opportunities for more efficient network planning."

The full details may be found in document 07/93R on the ComReg web-site www.comreg.ie.

ENDS

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