

Office of the Director of **Telecommunications Regulation**

MEDIA RELEASE

3rd October 2001

New Draft Strategy for Management of the Radio Spectrum in Ireland

Etain Doyle, Telecoms Regulator, today (Wednesday 3rd October 2001) published a draft paper focusing on the Strategic Management of the Radio Spectrum in Ireland. The Regulator is seeking comments on the wide range of issues raised in the paper with the aim of formulating a final decision at the beginning of 2002. This publication follows on from the Spectrum Review Consultation and Response to the Consultation that was concluded in May of this year.

According to the Regulator "my overall objective in this initiative is to develop a national spectrum strategy framework and to establish guiding principles for managing the spectrum in Ireland's interest. I want to ensure that there is flexibility and ease of access to radio spectrum in reaction to technological advances and market factors, in order to leverage Ireland's competitive advantage in this area, increase competition in the market and primarily to ensure the best in terms of choice, price and quality is offered to consumers".

The draft strategy covers all of the key areas of spectrum use, including mobile, fixed, broadcasting and other services that the ODTR regulates to ensure that Ireland has the necessary operational framework in place to maximise economic benefit from the use of the radio spectrum. For each service the paper sets out the present usage of the spectrum, examines key issues and presents objectives for management of the spectrum in order to inform its strategic development, being fully aware that

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decisions about spectrum use have long term implications for the spectrum user and for the Irish economy overall.

A copy of the paper is available on the ODTR website <u>www.odtr.ie</u> "Strategic management of the Radio Spectrum in Ireland - ODTR Draft publication – ODTR 01/81".

The Director welcomes comments from interested parties by 4pm on Monday December 3rd 2001 in relation to any of the issues raised in the paper.

ENDS

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