



Office of the Director of
**Telecommunications
Regulation**

MEDIA RELEASE

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ODTR Briefing Note Series – Potential Applications for Next Generation Networks

The Office of the Director of Telecommunications Regulation (ODTR) today (Tuesday 7th May 2002) issued a Briefing Note on Potential Applications for Next Generation Networks. This briefing note is a follow up to the Next Generation Networks note¹ that was issued in November 2001 which identified new and developing applications of information and communications technologies as being a key driver to the development of next generation networks. A range of new and potential applications are emerging in many areas including Government, education, entertainment, medicine, and business.

According to Etain Doyle, the Telecoms Regulator: “Some of the applications described in this briefing note are already available in Ireland. However the likelihood of their wider adoption, and the impact that this could have on telecommunications infrastructure, is something that needs to be highlighted and carefully considered”.

Much attention has focused on the delivery of new infrastructure. It is also important to consider the kinds of services that business, public service providers and consumers may adopt – whether these are voice based, data, audio or video. In general, video applications are more demanding in terms of bandwidth than audio and voice applications, and so the question as to the degree to which video based applications are developed and taken up will have a key bearing on the bandwidth required. Next generation networks will provide for a wide range of capacity and flexibility in delivering such services.

¹ www.odtr.ie/docs/odtr0188.doc

This Briefing Note has been produced as part of the ODTR's Forward-Looking Programme and forms part of the Briefing Note Series². These Briefing Notes are primarily aimed at non-technical readers with some background knowledge of current telecommunications technology. This Briefing Note is intended to develop the debate rather than to outline conclusions and the ODTR welcomes comments on the points contained in the note.

The Potential Applications for Next Generation Networks Briefing Note is available on the ODTR website www.odtr.ie odtr02/45.

ENDS

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² ODTR Docs 01/59, 01/88, 02/16, and 02/29