



Office of the Director of
**Telecommunications
Regulation**

MEDIA RELEASE

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REGULATOR ANNOUNCES DETAILS OF COMPETITION TO LICENCE TERRESTRIAL TRUNKED RADIO (TETRA)

Etain Doyle, Telecommunications Regulator today (6th October 2000) launched a competition for the award of a single national TETRA Public Access Mobile Radio licences. The licence, which will be awarded by tender using a comparative selection process, will be valid for 15 years. The results of the competition will be announced in January 2001.

TETRA (Terrestrial Trunked Radio) is a mobile communications service aimed at professional business users. It can deliver a broad range of voice and data services in both public and private networks.

According to the Regulator “As an advanced digital technology, TETRA can provide users with mobile access to the latest on-line and electronic commerce applications, while retaining the traditional business radio benefits of instant, cost-effective communication between individuals and groups”

She continued “TETRA services are currently being rolled out in a number of European countries and experience with similar services in the USA has shown there is a sizeable market for it. I believe that the introduction of such services in Ireland would create further choice and diversity for users of business mobile communications, ” she added.

The timetable table for the running of the competition is as follows. However the Director reserves the right to alter the above dates.

Launch of competition	9 th October 2000
Question and Answer Phase until	10 th November 2000
Deadline for submission of Tenders	24 th November 2000
Analysis of Tenders	8 th January 2001
Announce Decision	19 th January 2001

The Licence on offer is a national TETRA Public Access Mobile Radio (PAMR), licence utilising 2 x 2 MHz of spectrum in the 410-430MHz band.

The Director, who has established a Steering Group, which is responsible for the evaluation of applications and management of the selection process, will administer the competition.

The selection process will be carried out by way of open tender using a two-stage evaluation process. In the first stage the applications will be assessed to determine whether they are in compliance with the formal and binding requirements of the tender document. The second stage is a comparative selection process incorporating evaluation criteria, which are outlined and weighted in the tender document.

An information memorandum about the licensing process, including the proposed licensing framework and information on the associated fees and competition timescales is available on the ODTR website: www.odtr.ie – see Document ODTR 00/76. Full details of the licensing process are contained in the tender documentation, which is available from the Office of the Director of Telecommunications Regulation (ODTR) on payment of a non-refundable fee of £1,500.

Other useful documents which can be viewed on the ODTR website;

ODTR 00/11 “Extending Choice ...Opening the Market for Terrestrial Trunked Radio (TETRA) - Consultation Paper”,

ODTR 00/54 “Opens the market for Terrestrial Trunked Radio (TETRA) Response to the Consultation”.

ENDS

Issued By

Brigid Smyth, Public Affairs Manager, ODTR

PH: 01 804 9639 Mobile: 086 8270905