



Office of the Director of
**Telecommunications
Regulation**

MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release
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Regulator confirms award of Broadband Licence to *eircom plc*.

Etain Doyle Telecoms Regulator today (17th July 2000) announced that *eircom plc* will be awarded the fourth broadband wireless in the local loop licence in respect of a competition for the right to operate FWPMA (Fixed Wireless point to Multipoint Access). The regulator will now make the necessary arrangements to issue the licence to *eircom plc*.

Following a review of the broadband applications of both *eircom plc* and Broadnet, the Regulator today confirmed that the rankings of the two companies involved in the review should not change. *eircom plc* is to be awarded the remaining broadband licence, the others going to ESAT Telecom, Formus Communications Ireland Ltd and Princes Holdings Ltd.

In a settlement reached in the High Court on the 10th May 2000, it was agreed by all parties that the *eircom plc* and Broadnet applications be reviewed by an expert evaluation committee led by Mr Jim Norton, a distinguished telecommunications expert and senior adviser to the ODTR , Mr Keith Bernard , Head of Market Framework Division , ODTR and AMI Consultants . The New Group set up under the agreement had the task of comprehensively reviewing the choice of indicators, weightings allocated and the marks awarded. It has completed its work and reported that the choice of indicators was reasonable, the weightings allocated acceptable and the marks awarded fair. The rankings of the two companies involved in the review i.e. *eircom plc* and Broadnet should not be changed from that of the 1999 evaluation.

ENDS

Issued by: Brigid Smyth, Public Affairs Manager, ODTR.
Ph: 01 804 9639 Mobile: 086 827 0905