

Press Releases - Internet Access - 08/03/00

Cllr. Eoin Costello welcomes today's move by the Office of the Director of Telecommunications to stimulate competition in Internet area.

"I am pleased to see the Office of the Director of telecommunications start to take action to introduce competition in this area. Any such move is welcome. However the area where competition is really needed is in the provision of high speed Internet access for businesses and homes in Ireland. Many people in the Internet industry are extremely frustrated with the lack of a high speed Internet access, such as ADSL, throughout the country. Eircom still retains control over the hardware and has dragged its feet over the introduction of ADSL. ADSL is widely available in the US and many European countries. "

According to the press release from the Office of the Director of Telecommunications the regulator said

"I am very pleased with these new rates. They should ensure that Eircom and the other operators will compete fairly and vigorously in the best interests on Internet users. Ultimately it is competition that gives power to the consumer and drives prices down".

"It is interesting that the announcement from the ODTR comes on the same day as an announcement from the soon to merge AOL Time Warner Group, who have announced that to allow for competition, their cable network will be open for use by competitors that provide internet access." According to Eoin Costello "Unfortunately, until there is real competition in the area of providing high speed access to the Internet, the Irish Internet industry will continue to suffer."