

eircom Response to Government's National Broadband Plan

(Issued 24 November 2014) eircom welcomes today's announcement from the Government that clearly defines the areas of proposed intervention to deliver broadband to the most rural parts of the country.

The publication of the maps by the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources (DCENR) is an important next step in the National Broadband Implementation Plan (NBIP) and we fully support the Government in moving quickly to complete this project as soon as is feasible.

eircom believes that a fixed line fibre technology connected to every home and business should be the lead infrastructure to serve customers identified through this mapping exercise. This will ensure that the investment made by the Government will be future proofed, support the growth in data demands and ensure the best user experience for those customers within the intervention footprint. Through this initiative, industry and Government have an opportunity to remove any digital divide between urban and rural Ireland and to provide a platform for economic and social transformation across the whole country.

No operator is doing more than eircom to provide access to superfast broadband. As part of an overall strategic investment commitment of €1.5 billion, eircom is more than half way through a €400 million programme to rollout high speed fibre broadband.

Combined with eircom's rollout of fibre broadband to approximately 70% of the population, the NBIP is the final piece in the puzzle to ensure that all parts of the country have access to superfast broadband offering speeds at least 30Mb per second.

eircom already operates the largest broadband network in Ireland and almost 50% of the country has access to fibre broadband today. When completed in mid 2016, eircom will reach 1.6 million homes and businesses approximately 70% of the country with broadband speeds of up to 100Mb per second. eircom will also offer gigabit connectivity to 66 towns across all 26 counties.

ENDS

Note to editor:

A technical trial of fibre to the home (FTTH) technology is underway to assess the most cost effective solution for the rollout of high speed broadband in rural Ireland and to address the challenges of ribbon development and one off housing. This trial is taking place in Belcarra, Mayo.

eircom has already trialled and deployed FTTH technology in both an urban and suburban environments in Wexford Town and Sandyford, Co Dublin.