

eircom Expands Fibre Broadband Investment

**Additional 300,000 Rural Homes and Businesses in more than 1,000
Communities to get Broadband Speeds of up to 1 Gb/s**

Fibre Footprint 1.9m by 2020

(Thursday, 4th June 2015) eircom today announced plans to significantly expand access to high speed fibre broadband in rural Ireland by extending its fibre footprint from 1.6 million homes and businesses to 1.9 million premises throughout the country. The additional 300,000 homes and businesses are spread across 1,070 communities in all 26 counties, and include 300 communities not currently served with high speed broadband. Speeds of up to 1Gb/s will be available through the use of ‘end to end’ fibre to the home (FTTH) technology. This expanded footprint means eircom will invest €400m in fibre over the next five years.

The homes and businesses to be served by this investment are largely ribbon style developments across rural Ireland in communities such as Fybagh, Co Kerry; Blacksod, Co Mayo; Goleen, Co Cork; Maam Co Galway; and Ring, Co Waterford.

Today half of Ireland, 1.2 million homes and businesses, already has access to high speed broadband on eircom’s network and the company remains on track to reach 70% of the country by the end of 2016. By 2020, that will rise to 80% of the country, with 35% all homes and business accessing broadband speeds of up to 1Gb/s when construction completes.

Commenting Richard Moat, CEO eircom said “Today’s announcement underlines our continued ambition for Ireland and commitment to strategic investment by our shareholders, board and management. No other operator in Ireland is investing as extensively in fibre broadband. This is a critical development as we build a future proofed network using a best in class technology to deliver the highest broadband speeds to many rural communities right across Ireland.

By making high speed broadband available to as many people as possible, today’s announcement also reduces the intervention footprint under the Government’s National Broadband Plan, thereby reducing the burden for the taxpayer at a time where there is enormous demands for Exchequer funding.”

ENDS

Notes to editor

A detailed list of the 308 new communities included in this extended footprint is available on a county by county basis.

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Timeline of eircom's Key Fibre Milestones

Autumn 2012

- eircom commences construction of its fibre broadband network, using fibre to the Cabinet (FTTC) technology, supported by Huawei equipment.

May 2013

- eircom launches 'open access' fibre network, offering speeds of up to 70 Mb per second to more than 400,000 homes and businesses.

December 2013

- eircom expands planned fibre footprint from 1.2 million to 1.4 million premises. Fibre network footprint reaches 700,000 premises.

February 2014

- eircom becomes one of the first operators in Europe to introduce vectoring technology – fibre network now offers speeds of up to 100Mb per second

August 2014

- eircom announces acceleration of rollout to reach 1.4 million premises by end 2015. Extends planned fibre footprint to 1.6 million premises

September 2014

- Fibre network passes one millionth premises in Cahersiveen, Co Kerry

October 2014

- eircom announces plans to introduce speeds of up to 1Gbps (1,000Mb per second). FTTH rollout to commence in November in Letterkenny, Kilkenny City and Cavan Town. Also announces construction of rural FTTH technical trial in Belcarra, Mayo. Now estimates 1.6 million premises will be reached six months early by mid-2016.

February 2015

- eircom announces that first 16 of 66 FTTH locations will be able to offer service by September 2015, with speeds of 150Mb per second; 300Mb per second and 1,000Mb per second

April 2015

- eircom selects Huawei as its technology partner and equipment supplier for the initial phase of FTTH rollout.

May 2015

- eircom formally launches its FTTH trial and outlines FTTH as its technology solution for the Government's National Broadband Plan

June 2015

- eircom extends planned fibre footprint from 1.6 million premises to 1.9 million premises (82% of all premises in Ireland). FTTH technology used to reach additional 300,000 customers in more than 1,000 communities across the country.