

eircom to Offer Gigabit Broadband Speeds

- Fibre to the Home to Reach Every County in Ireland
 - 66 Communities Identified
 - Project to Commence Next Month

(Issued 28 October 2014) eircom Group today announced that it will significantly increase broadband speeds currently available on its fibre broadband network by offering one gigabit (1,000 megabits per second) connectivity in 66 communities across the country. These superfast speeds will be underpinned by ‘end to end’ fibre connections through the use of fibre to the home (FTTH) technology. Customer connections will be provided as demand for this connectivity emerges.

With a one gigabit broadband connection, consumers can download a high definition film in less than a minute and business users will have bandwidth capacity to transfer applications and large data files at rates previously only available to large enterprises.

Work will commence next month on the first three locations - Cavan Town, Kilkenny City and Letterkenny Town. The construction phase for each location is expected to take approximately six months. The planned footprint includes areas of all five major cities, major regional centres and every county town in Ireland. Detailed rollout plans for each community will be announced in due course.

Commenting on the announcement, Richard Moat, Acting CEO, eircom said, “Today demonstrates the flexibility and scalability of our future proofed fibre network. Building on our existing network design, end to end fibre connectivity supporting speeds of one gigabit, is the natural next step in the evolution of our network capability.

“This announcement underlines eircom’s ambition for Ireland and our ambition as the country’s leading telecommunication provider to rollout new technologies that enable and encourage economic growth. Once again we will demonstrate our expertise and ability to deliver network investment more efficiently and at lower cost than other operators.”

Separately, eircom Group has commenced the construction of a technical trial of FTTH to assess the most cost effective solution for the rollout of high speed broadband in rural Ireland and address the challenges of ribbon development. This trial is taking place in Belcarra, Mayo and will launch in early 2015. eircom has already trialled and deployed FTTH technology in both an urban and suburban environments in Wexford Town and Sandyford, Co Dublin.

eircom has outlined its plans to the Regulator (ComReg) and the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources (DCENR). Industry engagement will commence shortly. Operators will continue to have the same ‘open access’ to the fibre network alongside a suite of enhanced products with significantly increased speed profiles.

This project will run in parallel with eircom’s existing fibre investment programme. In August, eircom announced an acceleration and extension of these plans to reach 1.4 million premises by the end of 2015. It also expanded the planned footprint from 1.4 million to 1.6 million homes and businesses. In a further acceleration of those announcements, eircom

now estimates it will complete the rollout of fibre to 1.6 million homes and businesses by the middle of 2016, six months ahead of schedule. Last month, the company passed the important milestone of one million premises which can now access broadband with speeds of up to 100Mb per second.

ENDS

Notes to Editor:

See attached map for full list of locations.

Key Fibre Milestones:

Autumn 2012

eircom commences construction of its fibre broadband network, using fibre to the Cabinet (FTTC) technology.

May 2013

eircom Launches 'open access' fibre network, offering speeds of up to 70 Mbps 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 100Mbps

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 (1,000Mbps). 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.

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