

An Taoiseach Launches eircom's National Fibre Network

- **€400m Broadband Infrastructure Key for Ireland's Competitiveness**
 - **Open Access Network Available to All Service Providers**
 - **Range of eFibre Products including FREE Upgrade**

(Thursday, 16th May 2013) eircom today was joined by An Taoiseach Enda Kenny TD to officially launch eircom's national fibre broadband network. From Monday, 20th May, more than 300,000 families and businesses across Ireland will be able to order superfast reliable fibre broadband from Ireland's newest fibre network. It will provide speeds of up to 70Mb per second. On average, customers using the network will see a six to 10 time improvement in their current broadband download speeds, transforming their online experience.

By the end of this year, eircom aims to reach more than 600,000 homes and businesses, bringing over 10,000 additional premises online each week. When completed in early 2015, the network will reach 1.2 million homes and businesses across Ireland, representing 60% of all homes and businesses in the country. eircom also aims to increase the speeds on offer up to 100Mb per second within the next year as the technology evolves.

An Taoiseach, Enda Kenny, TD said "Encouraging investment in superfast broadband for the benefit of our economy is a key goal of the Government in our efforts to get Ireland working again. I would like to pay tribute to eircom for the ambition and commitment to construct a national fibre network that will be available to all other operators and will directly benefit consumers and businesses throughout the country. Superfast broadband will support new enterprise and investment that will in turn create new jobs across the country. By working together with industry partners and policy makers for the greater good of the country, eircom is playing its part in rebuilding the country's economic competitiveness which will underpin our sustained recovery. "

Commenting on the launch of the network, **Herb Hribar, CEO, eircom Group** said "Today is a significant milestone for eircom Group. It is the first step in delivering what will be Ireland's largest fibre broadband network. We are determined to maintain our position as the key provider of telecommunications in Ireland by delivering access to superfast broadband right across the country. eircom will continue to actively review its plans to expand the network beyond 1.2 million premises as far and as wide as commercially possible. Our fibre network is good for consumers, good for businesses and good for Ireland."

In addition to constructing and operating what will be the country's largest fibre network, eircom is launching a complete suite of eFibre products and bundles for consumers and businesses. Starting at €40* for consumers and €24.79 for businesses, eircom's eFibre products offer significant value.

Notes to editor:

The €40 consumer price point is a six month promotional offer for new customers

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For further information:

Paul Bradley

Head of Communications

eircom

Telephone (01) 600 4281

Mobile (085) 174 4281

Dearbhail Rossiter

Senior Press Officer

eircom

Telephone (01) 600 5284

Mobile (085) 174 5284