

eircom Selects Huawei for Fibre to the Home

- **Initial Contract Value worth estimated €10m**
- **Ireland's Fastest Broadband Speeds To Be Available within Five Months**

Wednesday 22nd April 2015: eircom, Ireland's largest telecommunications provider, has selected telecoms equipment provider Huawei as its technology partner and equipment supplier for the first of a multi-phased rollout of fibre to the home (FTTH) technology across Ireland. The initial contract is worth an estimated €10m. Deployment of the equipment will proceed immediately in 16 communities where network construction has already commenced. Customers will be able to order fibre services offering speeds of up to 1Gb/s by the end of August 2015. In total, 66 communities will benefit from FTTH services by 2017.

Huawei will deliver the latest optical line terminals (OLTs) and optical network terminals (ONTs) that will support broadband speeds up to 1Gb/s. This equipment will allow eircom to offer the fastest broadband speeds in Ireland to residential and business customers when the service is launched at the end of the summer. The equipment is capable of delivering even faster speeds beyond 1Gb/s as demand emerges. In 2012, Huawei was selected as the equipment supplier for eircom's fibre to the cabinet (FTTC) technology that underpins current broadband speeds of up to 100Mb/s that is already available to 1.1 million homes and businesses across Ireland.

Johnny Shine, Group MD, eircom Networks, said: "This is another important milestone in the journey to bring high speed broadband to Ireland. By using Huawei equipment, eircom will be able to offer the fastest broadband speeds in Ireland in the coming months. We see customer demand for data continue to grow at a rapid pace. By deploying FTTH technology we will be in a position to meet and exceed those growing data demands and expectations with a suite of products that offers truly world class broadband speeds".

Jeff Wang, President of Huawei Access Network Product Line, said: "Huawei is very pleased to be working with eircom to support its fibre to the home rollout. We all live in a digital age and we know connectivity has never been more important. This programme is another step towards helping to build a better connected Ireland. Huawei is happy to be playing its part in bringing superfast broadband speeds to these communities and we look forward to working with eircom to deliver on this exciting programme with our innovative solutions."

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 has commenced on the on the first locations. These include:

	Location	County
1	Cavan	CAVAN
2	Ennis	CLARE
3	Carrigaline	CORK
4	Douglas	CORK
5	Letterkenny	DONEGAL
6	Ballbriggan	DUBLIN
7	Sandyford	DUBLIN
8	Tralee	KERRY
9	Naas	KILDARE
10	Kilkenny	KILKENNY
11	Drogheda	LOUTH
12	Castlebar	MAYO
13	Belcarra	MAYO
14	Monaghan	MONAGHAN
15	Roscommon	ROSCOMMON
16	Sligo	SLIGO
17	Mullingar	WESTMEATH
18	Wexford	WEXFORD
19	Greystones	WICKLOW

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.

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NOTES TO EDITORS:

Timeline of 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 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.

February 2015

- eircom announces that first 16 of 66 FTTH locations will be able to offer service by September 2015, with speeds of 250Mb/s; 500Mb/s and 1,000Mb/s

April 2015

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

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