



Office of Utility Regulation

Media Release – Embargo 6.00am 24th February 2010

OUR seeks interest in 2.6GHz spectrum

The OUR has today issued a consultation aimed at determining how 2.6 GHz spectrum might be made available for use in Guernsey. This is a higher frequency range than that presently used by mobile operators. Given developments in technology, the spectrum offers a range of possible uses, including further use by mobile operators, wireless internet or fixed wireless operators.

“As users of mobile technologies demand more bandwidth and higher broadband speeds, given data hungry applications, higher frequency spectrum may help address this need. We are keen to ensure Guernsey’s telecoms infrastructure remains world-class and the potential of the 2.6GHz spectrum is fully utilised for the benefit of consumers” said Michael Byrne, Director of Regulation at the OUR.

The OUR has already had expressions of interest from telecoms operators and the OUR is now looking to consider how best to address that demand. The OUR, in conjunction with the UK telecoms regulator Ofcom, is intending to make a decision on this later this year.

“Radio spectrum is a hugely valuable, but scarce resource. We want to ensure that it is used as efficiently as possible and that its use delivers real value to consumers, said Michael Byrne. “The potential for expanding competition in the broadband market, either through faster mobile broadband or through alternatives to the current fixed broadband offerings is an important objective for the OUR. Therefore we are keen to ensure that the spectrum is put to best use.”

The OUR consultation document “2.6GHz Licence Award” (OUR 10/02) is available from the OUR or on its website on www.regutil.gg.

ENDS

About the OUR

The Office of Utility Regulation was established in 2001 to regulate the three utilities of post, telecommunications and electricity in the Bailiwick of Guernsey. The Office is headed up by Director General, John Curran and has three staff.

The role of the OUR is to protect the interests of Guernsey consumers and the economy. It does this by ensuring that customers receive the best in price, choice and quality services in the three regulated sectors, while at the same time ensuring that those sectors are vibrant and robust so that they can positively contribute to and underpin a successful Guernsey economy.

The OUR licenses and regulates telecommunications operators, Guernsey Electricity Ltd and Guernsey Post Ltd. Wherever possible, the OUR promotes the introduction of competition by ensuring that there is fair play and a level playing field between the operators. Where competition is not yet effective or where it is not feasible, the OUR regulates prices and quality of services to end customers. More information is available from the OUR website www.regutil.gg, or by contacting the Office of Utility Regulation on 01481 711120.