



GT publishes Reference Offer for Interconnection; Regulator invites Comment

The Director General of Utility Regulation, Regina Finn, has today opened a period of comment on the draft Reference Offer for Interconnection published by Guernsey Telecoms (GT).

Interconnection is the term describing the connection of one network with another. New entrants will require access to GT's network if they are to be able to provide services to the customers connected to GT's network. The RO – which is a “catalogue” of interconnection services for alternative operators - sets out GT's stall of interconnection services, the processes and procedures for availing of such services and will, in due course, include the charges for those services. Individual operators can then choose the elements they require to build their services and negotiate a specific agreement with GT on those issues. The existence of the RO gives new entrants and operators a starting point from which to negotiate. In a market where GT is by far the strongest player, this is an essential tool for new players.

The Regulator said “The availability of interconnection services is crucial to the development of a healthy competitive telecoms market. The RO published today will enable new entrants to the telecoms market to be aware of the services they may buy from GT and therefore plan their market entry strategy accordingly.” She invited all parties interested in the Guernsey telecoms market to respond to the invitation to comment, saying “we want to finalise the details of interconnection services as far in advance of the introduction of competition as possible, so we need the input of competitors to ensure that the range and types of services available match their needs.”

The Regulator is also investigating the charges GT may make for interconnection services which, under GT's licence terms and conditions, must be cost-oriented and transparent. The Regulator has recently informed GT of certain amendments required to its costing systems to enable them meet the regulatory requirements of this Office and shall be discussing further how this should be implemented and the timeframes within which it is required.

The period for comment on the GT Reference Offer runs from 11th December until 18th January, 2002.

**ENDS/
11th December 2001**

The OUR Document "Guernsey Telecoms Reference Offer for Interconnection and Access - Invitation to Comment" is available on the OUR website (www.regutil.gg) (Document OUR 01/24).

The GT Reference Offer is published on the GT website (www.guernseytelecoms.com).