



### ENUM – Electronic Numbering, a new approach in communications

The Regulator today (23<sup>rd</sup> June 2003) published an Information Note on a new development in numbering that brings together the traditional telephony world and the world of the Internet. ENUM – which stands for *Electronic NUM*bering, is a new numbering scheme that can allow an individual to be contacted using only one set of contact details – but using any of several different communications devices.

“ENUM is a very good example of the convergence of communications technologies”, said John Curran, Regulatory Manager at OUR. “We are publishing this information Note so that business people in Guernsey, especially those in the technology and ISP sectors, are made aware of this type of technological advance and can become involved at an early stage so as to take advantage of new opportunities”.

Briefly, ENUM is intended to allow users to register their contact details in a central location. A prompt or request for a registered persons’ details would then return the full range of contact options, allowing that person to be contacted by email, fax, telephone or whatever medium is best suited for the message. Trials are being carried out in a number of countries to better understand the technical, commercial and regulatory issues that are created by ENUM, including a trial currently running in the UK.

“We are encouraging interested parties – particularly operators and ISPs – to consider the opportunities that exist for them to gain further information or be part of the trials in the UK”, said Mr Curran. “While it will probably be sometime before customers are in a position to exploit ENUM, it is important that developments such as this are tracked – we want to ensure that customers and service providers in the Bailiwick are positioned to take full advantage of the opportunities it presents at the same time as the UK market and that any service quality or customer privacy issues are fully explored”.

The Information Note provides background information on ENUM, the various developments that occurring in other markets and the opportunities that exist to gain further information or participate in the UK trials. It is expected that the trial will continue until the end of 2003.

Copies of Information Note on ENUM (OUR Document 03/16) are available from the OUR website on [www.regutil.gg](http://www.regutil.gg) or by calling the Office on 01481 711120.

**ENDS/  
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For further information call the Office of Utility Regulation on 711120