



Office of Utility Regulation

Media Release

OUR promotes Wireless Broadband for Guernsey

The OUR today issued an information note on how telecoms operators can use wireless technology to provide broadband services directly to customers in Guernsey.

“Wireless technology offers a great opportunity for Guernsey”, said John Curran, Director of Regulation at the OUR. “It can be used to provide broadband connections from the homes and businesses of customers to a telecommunications operator’s network. This allows for the rapid roll out of high speed internet access without the disruption of road closures and traffic diversions that can arise when laying infrastructure in the ground”.

The radio spectrum available for this type of application is known as Broadband Fixed Wireless Access (“BFWA”). The OUR, in cooperation with Ofcom (the UK regulator that manages Guernsey’s spectrum), has four licences available for 3.6GHz spectrum and Newtel (Guernsey) Ltd has already applied for spectrum in the 3.4GHz frequency range.

The OUR is inviting operators to submit expressions of interest in obtaining licences to use BFWA in the Bailiwick and is holding an industry seminar on 23rd September to inform operators of the process for obtaining spectrum. The document OUR 04/17 “Broadband Fixed Wireless Access in Guernsey; Licensing of 3.4GHz and 3.6GHz Spectrum” is available on the OUR website (www.regutil.gg) or by contacting the Office of Utility Regulation on 711120. Operators wishing to attend the seminar should contact the OUR directly.

**ENDS/
1st September 2004**

Information for Editors

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, Regina Finn and has four 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.