



Media Release – 14th September 2006

OUR Announces Award of 3G Mobile Licence

Guernsey's utilities regulator has awarded the Bailiwick's second 3G mobile licence to Guernsey Airtel Ltd. In June the company emerged from a competitive selection process as the highest ranking applicant for the licence and since then, the Office of Utility Regulation has been discussing the exact terms of that licence, which have now been agreed. In addition, Guernsey Airtel has been granted a 2G licence. Both Licences will come into effect on 15th September 2006.

“I am pleased to award these two new mobile licences to Guernsey Airtel. Through its parent company, Bharti Telecom, Guernsey Airtel brings a wealth of knowledge and experience of mobile communications to the Guernsey market”, said John Curran, Director General of the OUR. “I am confident, based on the proposals in its application, Guernsey Airtel will enhance competition within the Bailiwick and Guernsey mobile users will see the benefits from its entry to the market.”

The licence award follows a comparative selection process which began in February 2006. Two applications were received in April and the OUR announced the ranking of its evaluation in June. These awards have been made following the successful conclusion of discussions between the OUR and Guernsey Airtel about the exact terms of the licences.

“Guernsey Airtel's application described the company's professional, thorough and innovative approach to the mobile market. Their interest in Guernsey highlights the confidence there is in the local telecoms market and how attractive Guernsey is as a market in which to invest and do business in. I congratulate them on their success in the competition and wish them every success in their new business here in Guernsey.” said John Curran. “I

would also like to thank C&W Guernsey for its application as undoubtedly a lot of work went into the application.”

ENDS/

Information for Editors

The award of the two mobile telephony licences followed a public consultation and an award process which took the form of a comparative selection process (also known as a ‘beauty parade’). Two applications were received: one from Guernsey Airtel (formerly Indian Continent Investments Ltd) and another from C&W Guernsey. In June 2006, the OUR announced that Guernsey Airtel was the highest ranked applicant. Following negotiations on the terms of the licences, the OUR was obliged to follow a statutory process laid down in the Telecommunications Law and the announcement today is the conclusion of that formal process.

The Licences will be published on the OUR website on their effective date – 15th September 2006.

- **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 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.