



Office of Utility Regulation

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Regulator to Licence Second 3G Operator

Mobile phone users in Guernsey will soon be able choose their provider of 3G services following a decision by the regulator to award another licence. Today the Office of Utility Regulation (OUR) has set out the terms under which it will licence another 3G operator in competition with Wave Telecom, and is inviting companies to apply for that licence which will be awarded by late summer 2006.

“The market for 3G services is now looking much more positive than when the first licence was awarded to Wave Telecom in 2003”, said Jon Buckland, Director of Policy at the OUR. “Competition in the 2G market has increased the range of services on offer, and brought prices down, and we think it can only be beneficial for 3G users as well.”

The formal Tender Document is available to interested parties upon payment of £5,000 and it sets out the detailed terms of the competition and minimum requirements that a successful applicant will have to meet. Applications must be lodged with the OUR by 13th April 2006 and the Office intends to award the licence by August 2006. The cost of the licence is £250,000, the same as paid by Wave Telecom for its 3G licence.

“Given the level of interest in mobile services, we are confident there will be a strong level of interest in this licence” said Jon Buckland. “There has been significant investment in the telecoms market in Guernsey since it was opened to competition which is a strong endorsement of the regulatory regime that has been put in place. Further competition in the mobile market can only be good for Guernsey consumers in the long term.”

An Information Note on the competition together with the report on the recent consultation is available on the OUR website – www.regutil.gg – or from the OUR office at Suite B1&B2, Hirzel Court, St Peter Port, Guernsey GY1 2NH, Tel 01481 711120. The deadline for applications is 12pm on 13th April 2006.

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Information for Editors

3G is the third generation of wireless communication, which includes digital transmission; however it also permits per-user and terminal mobility by providing a single mobile communication service, adjusted fro broadband applications, including voice, data and multimedia streams, that will support higher data speeds (2Mbps), with the objective of ultimately supporting upto 155Mbps.

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.