



Office of Utility Regulation

Media Release - Embargoed until 6.00am 1st July 2009

OUR AWARDS 3G LICENCE TO C&W GUERNSEY

The Utilities Regulator has announced that it is to award a 3G licence to C&W Guernsey (Sure). The decision will see the three mobile operators – Airtel-Vodafone, Sure and Wave - able to offer both 2G and 3G mobile services. Airtel-Vodafone is also going to be granted further mobile spectrum so that all three operators will shortly have spectrum across all three mobile spectrum ranges.

‘Having a competitive mobile market is a key objective for the OUR. This decision, coupled with the introduction of MNP last year should provide a further stimulus to the mobile market. In the seven months since MNP was introduced in Guernsey nearly 2000 customers have changed provider which shows that consumers are keen to take advantage of the choice in the mobile market,’ said John Curran, Director General of the OUR. “Having a third competitor in the 3G mobile market will I hope further boost the range of 3G services on offer for mobile users and intensify the level of market competition in the mobile market as a whole, which will benefit all consumers.’

As part of the decision, Sure is required to surrender some of its spectrum in the 2G area, which will be re-allocated to Airtel-Vodafone, to create a more level playing field between the three operators. Sure has agreed to the criteria set out by the OUR for receiving the 3G licence and negotiations will commence immediately to finalise the exact terms of the licence. The OUR expects this process to be finalised by the end of July.

Full details of the OUR’s decision are set out in the OUR document “Competition in the Mobile Telecommunications Market - Further Licence Award – Final Decision’ (OUR 09/07). The document can be found on the OUR website at www.regutil.gg.

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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 the Director General, John Curran, and has six 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.