



Office of Utility Regulation

Media Release

Regulator to Licence Second 3G Operator

The Regulator today (14th November 2004) set out the terms under which a second 3G mobile licence will be issued in Guernsey. The document sets out the rules for the competition and also contains the preliminary tender document.

“The mobile market for 3G services is now much more positive than in 2003 when the first 3G mobile telecommunications licence in Guernsey was awarded” said Jon Buckland, Director of Policy at the OUR. “We are looking to build on the advantages that competition has brought to the 2G market where the range of services has increased and tariffs continue to fall. As there is sufficient spectrum available for another 3G operator we are now starting the process of awarding a further licence to ensure competition for 3G services also.”

The OUR document sets out the minimum requirements any potential licensee will have to meet and the timetable for completion of the licensing process. The OUR is aiming to have the second 3G licence awarded by 1st July 2006. The final decision will be made by comparative evaluation (also known as a ‘beauty parade’).

“We are aware from looking at developments in Jersey that there is interest in the Channel Islands as a market in which to invest” said Jon Buckland. “We are now commencing a wide marketing campaign to ensure the availability of this opportunity is known within the mobile industry and to promote the opportunity that exists in Guernsey.”

The document 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 consultation period ends on 16th December with the formal tendering process due to commence on 1st February.

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Information for Editors

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.