



Ireland,
knowledge
is in our
nature™

IRELAND'S TELECOMMUNICATIONS INFRASTRUCTURE

Ireland's broadband telecommunications infrastructure assists Ireland's drive in attracting a new generation of FDI, in sectors such as Digital Media, International Financial Services, ICT, Software and Life Sciences.

Ireland's telecommunications infrastructure comprises of it's international connectivity, the national network, world-class data centres and other telecoms services.

INTERNATIONAL CONNECTIVITY

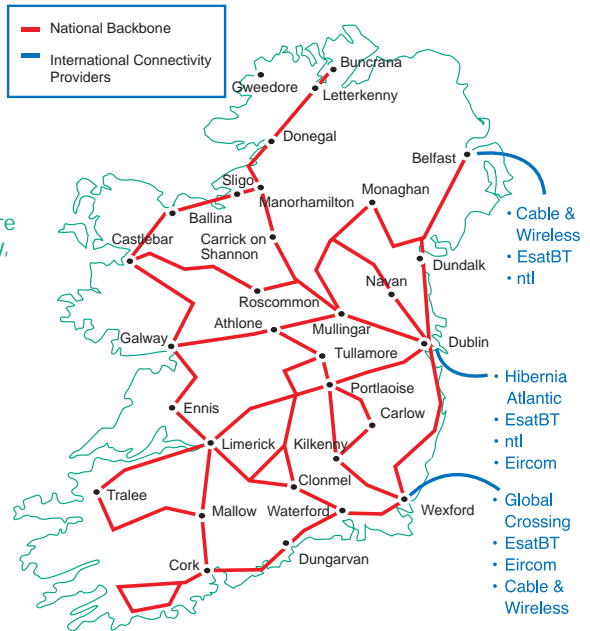
Ireland has numerous international telecoms connections entering at Dublin, Belfast and Wexford. Cable & Wireless, EsatBT, Eircom, ntl, Hibernia Atlantic and Global Crossing all offer international connectivity with considerable capacity to clients. Ireland is also committed to the provision of an International Internet Exchange, which will allow enhanced multilateral peering with ISPs.

NATIONAL NETWORK

As shown on the map, Ireland has wide-ranging telecommunications coverage throughout the state. The providers of this network include Eircom, EsatBT, Chorus, MCI, ESB Telecoms and Aurora. Dublin is well served by the providers with a world class network, which is resilient and competitive on cost.

The Irish government is currently building Metropolitan Area Networks (MANs) around 19 towns and cities to further complement the existing network and increase competition based on price and service. They will consist of carrier neutral, open access fibre optic cables.

Letterkenny, Gweedore, Manorhamilton, Carrick-on-Shannon, Ballina, Roscommon, Galway, Athlone, Mullingar, Tullamore, Portlaoise, Carlow, Kilkenny, Wexford,



Waterford, Clonmel, Dungarvan, Cork and Limerick are due for completion at the end of 2004. A further 88 towns and cities are being considered in the next phase.

DATA CENTRES

Ireland's high-calibre data centres are dotted around Dublin city. Data Electronics, EsatBT, Eircom, Energis, Hibernia Atlantic, HP, Interxion, MCI, ServeCentric and Teleticity provide both managed services and co-location in world class facilities. Their clients include Microsoft, Google, Lufthansa, Adobe, SAP, AT&T, eBay, Ryanair, ABN AMRO, Ingersoll-Rand and GMAC.

OTHER TELECOM SERVICES

Ireland also offers proficiency in Broadband Wireless Access, Local Broadband Wireless, Wi-Fi Hotspots, 3G services, DSL, and Satellite Broadband.

GLOSSARY

BACKBONE – Core infrastructure of telecommunications network between regions, cities and towns.

BACKHAUL – The connection of the operator's network to the backbone network, linking access points.

BROADBAND – Infrastructure that enables large amounts of data and voice to be transmitted between computers and over the Internet at high speeds. It is provided over fibre optic broadband cable.

CO-LOCATION – The renting of space for housing telecoms equipment. This housing is usually shared with other tenants.

DATA CENTRE – Provides facilities for co-location, web and server hosting, network and support services.

DIGITAL CONTENT – Management and distribution of digital products and services and the technology that underpins them.

DSL – Digital Subscriber Line. Technologies that allow an ordinary telephone copper network to be used for high-speed communications.

FIBRE/FIBRE-OPTICS – Strands of very pure glass that can carry vast amounts of information (voice & data). The fibre becomes lit when it is connected to transmission equipment.

INTERNET EXCHANGE – A physical infrastructure allowing ISPs and major content providers to exchange Internet traffic.

ISPs – Internet Service Providers. A company that connects subscribers to the global Internet.

LEASED LINES – A line rented from a telecoms operator to interconnect different geographic locations.

MAN – Metropolitan Area Network - a fibre optic and duct network serving business and residences in an urban area.

PEERING – a reciprocal agreement between ISPs providing access to each other's networks free of charge or at an agreed price.

RESILIENCE – An alternative ISP or network connection that can be used in case of disruption or breakdown.

3G – High speed mobile services that will deliver high speed data services through mobile devices. Providers will include Vodafone, O2 and 3.

TIER 1 – Large telecommunications companies and ISPs who together hold all the worlds Internet routes

VOICE OVER IP – Method of delivering voice on the internet and data networks.

WI-FI HOTSPOTS – Wireless broadband access points located in public areas. Providers include O2 and EsatBT.

WIRELESS ACCESS – Access via a system that operates locally without wires.



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