



Border, Midland & Western
Regional Assembly
Investing in Your Future

PRESS RELEASE

BMW Assembly Welcomes Announcement of National Broadband Scheme

Mr. Gerry Finn, Director of the Border, Midland and Western Regional Assembly welcomed the announcement of the new National Broadband Scheme by Minister for Communications Eamon Ryan, TD, in Dublin today.

Mr. Finn, who is a member of the Steering Committee which advised the Department of Communications on the roll-out of the scheme, stated that the new scheme will deliver a broadband service to areas of the country where broadband is not currently available. “From autumn 2010 onwards, no part of Ireland will be disadvantaged due to the absence of broadband services”. The roll-out of the National Broadband Scheme which has received EU state aid approval will, according to Mr. Finn “provide a boost to the regional economy and will contribute to balanced regional development by ensuring that everyone, irrespective of where they are, will have access to high quality, competitively priced broadband services”.

The National Broadband Scheme is co-funded by the European Regional Development Fund under the BMW Regional Programme 2007-13 and will support the regional priority of enhancing ICT, innovation and the knowledge economy within the BMW region. The BMW Director went on to state that “in introducing this scheme, the Government has recognised that there are areas where it is not profitable for the private sector to provide a service. It is these areas that this scheme will address with the State covering part of the costs involved in providing broadband in the areas concerned”.

Mr. Finn stressed the benefits of broadband availability for businesses and households and the opportunities that broadband provides for access to information services and new markets. Broadband also facilitates education and research, access to information on public services and contributes to an improved quality of life. Farmers, Small and Medium Enterprises and students will all benefit in their daily lives from the universal availability of broadband. This will also improve the BMW region’s attractiveness and competitiveness, as a place in which to invest and live, he stated.

Finally, Mr. Finn acknowledged the continued support of the EU for investment in regional infrastructure. The National Broadband Scheme follows on the significant public investment of over €90m in broadband infrastructure under the BMW Regional Operational Programme 2000-06.

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For further information, contact:

Mr. Gerry Finn, Director
BMW Regional Assembly
094 9862970

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