

**Ireland's**  
**Regional Broadband Programme**



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# Outline of Presentation

- Govt Objective
- Current MAN Programme
- PPP to Manage MANs
- Group Broadband Scheme
- Other Rural Initiatives
- Challenges and ideas going forward
- Targets to end 2007

# **Government Objective**

- **To place Ireland in the top 10% of OECD countries for broadband connectivity by end 2007**
- This means 14% market penetration or 196,000 customers
- This will be achieved ahead of schedule
- Broadband numbers currently at 90,000 and growing 30% a quarter, 70 -fold increase in numbers since March 2003

# **Metropolitan Area Networks (broadband ring roads)**

- **First Phase: To build and make available open-access infrastructure that will remain in long-term public ownership while allowing the service providers access at flat-rate, transparent costs**
- **Achieved on time and on cost**

# Regional Broadband Programme Phase 1



Key:  
Phase 1  
Towns



Designed by  
Magnum Opus

Funded by the Irish Government and part  
financed by the European Union under the  
National Development Plan 2000-2006.

# **MANs FUNDING**

**Government and ERDF funding  
of €65 million was committed to  
the project over the years 2003  
and 2004**

**The first 19 MANs have been  
completed on time and within budget**

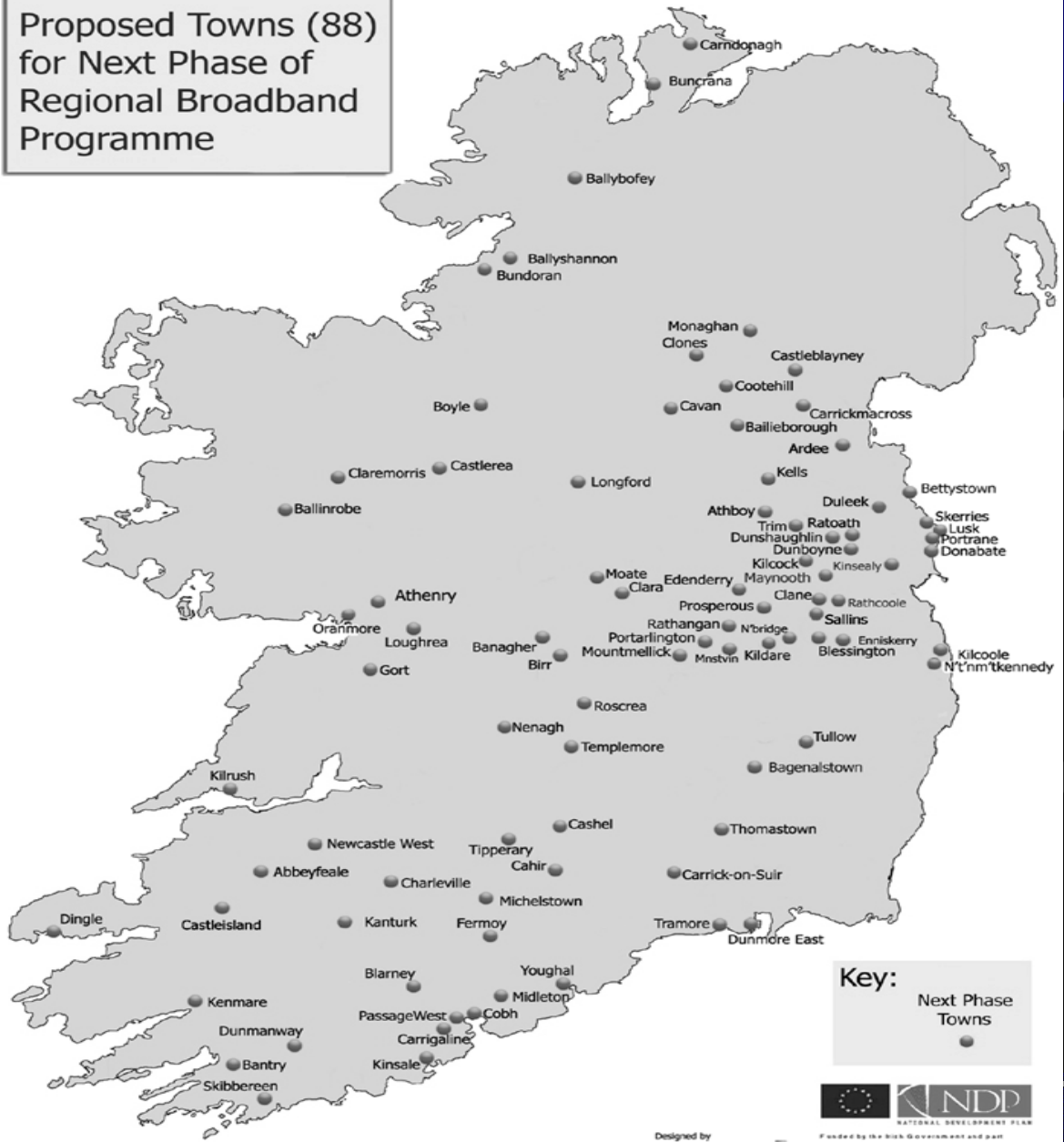
# Management Services Entity

- **Multi-million PPP**
- **€500m being shared between the parties**
  - **E-Net awarded a 15-year Services Concession Contract**
  - **Strict performance criteria**
  - **Now active in 7 cities and towns**
- **Contract a balance between Govt econ. Development objectives and E-Net commercial objectives**

# **Regional Broadband Programme Second Phase**

- Rollout of MANs in over 90 towns with a population of 1,500+
- Government funding of €105 million over three years
- In partnership with local and regional authorities

Proposed Towns (88)  
for Next Phase of  
Regional Broadband  
Programme



Key:  
Next Phase  
Towns



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# Second Phase MANs

- ❖ Will be funded and constructed in association with the local authorities
- ❖ Will be managed under the same terms as the First Phase MANs
- ❖ Will remain in State ownership
- ❖ Will be open access

# Call For Proposals

## Second Phase MANs

- The Call For Proposals issued to local authorities in August.
- 44 applications received 28 September
  - Construction to begin before Xmas
  - Projects completed within 12 months.
- Call for the remaining towns in early 2005



# Broadband For Schools

Agreement between the Dept of  
Communications, Marine and Natural  
Resources,

the Dept of Education and Science,  
and the Telecommunications Industry  
Federation to fund the provision of  
broadband in all first and second level  
schools in the State by the start of the  
2005 school year.

# Broadband For Schools

## Funding

- The project will cost €18 million, and will be funded jointly by the industry and Government
- Public tendering process has begun
- Contracts to be signed by end 2004
- Complete rollout by September 2005

# Group Broadband Scheme

- €25 million set aside for delivery of broadband to smaller communities over three years
- Co-funded by the E-Commerce & Communications Measure of the BMW and S&E Regional Operational Programmes
- Communities of less than 1,500 people will pool their requirements and draw up plans to suit their needs, in partnership with the industry (52 applications received)
- Funding up to a maximum of 55% allowed

# Fibre Network Enhancement

- 1<sup>st</sup> Phase - 500 Kms - 50,000 fibre Kms
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Phase - 500 Kms - 50,000 fibre Kms
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Phase - 500 Kms - 50,000 fibre Kms
- ESB networks – 1,300 Kms - 50,000 fibre Kms
  
- Total fibre added - 200,000 kilometres

**NETT AGGREGATE EFFECT -  
A DOUBLING OF THE  
NATIONAL STOCK OF FIBRE**

# Other Rural initiatives

- Community Application of IT (capability building)
- Clar (Partnerships to bring high speed broadband to isolated communities)
- Tax relief (abolition of benefit in kind on IT and broadband to support remote working)
- Trials of emerging technologies (Vsat, wireless)
- National Security Awareness Campaign
- Broadband Website

# Going Forward

- Group Broadband Scheme for rural areas and smaller towns
- 120 towns over 1,500 population –
- Successful MSE
- 150 Group Broadband projects
- Strategic deployment of International capacity
- Regional links through semi-State bodies, e.g. ESB, BGE, NRA, LAs

# Challenges

- Leverage the schools rollout to expand broadband rollout using GBS funds as necessary
- Raise the residential broadband numbers (personal tax relief for first three years costs?, i'e. incentivise the consumer.
- Broadband Charter agreed with CEOs (eircom, Esat, Chorus, NTL, Vodafone, O2, Meteor, Hutchinson, Digiweb, Smart, Mediasat, Irish Broadband, Leap, MCI, ESBT, Cable and Wireless, AT&T, Global Crossing, UTV, Energis, etc. Setting a year end objective

# Challenges

- Publish League table of performing telcos and ISPs
- Advanced technology deployment (free space optics).
- Aggregation through Government contracts

# End 2006

- 500,000 broadband customers (i.e. 35% of market)
- 120 MANs open access (all major towns and cities) and profitable MSE
- 150 GBS projects
- Broadband in 4,200 schools and spun out into these communities
- State networks (ESB, NRA, RTE and BGE interlinking all major centres, in addition to ESAT, Eircom and wireless networks)
- Centre of excellence for advance technology trials



# Thank You

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