

# Radiocommunications agency in broadband licence drive

Submitted by: Mason Group

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(London) – The Radiocommunications Agency (RA) is considering the format of a revised licensing award process to take place in the late summer of 2003, to award the remaining BFWA licences left unsold following the initial award process that took place in 2000.

Following a public consultation exercise, the RA is re-considering the definition of the regional licence areas, to consider the viability of offering the 'Licence 3' licences in smaller coverage areas. Possible options being considered are: defining smaller regional licences, operator-defined licence areas and individual base station licensing.

The RA has appointed Mason Communications, the independent telecommunications & IT convergence consultancy, to provide market and financial input in relation to re-defining licence areas. This will form an input to the next (third) stage of the 28 GHz Broadband Fixed Wireless Access (BFWA) licence award process.

Mason consultants will advise the RA on the business model and commercial viability of the various options and provide an assessment of the broadband wireless market as input to the next stage of the licence award process. Mason has an extensive track record in the broadband market and in wireless technologies, gained from advising UK and overseas telecom operators, end users and public sector organisations on broadband wireless business models, the UK's broadband market and meeting end user requirements.

Bob Warburton, Director at Mason said "We are delighted to be supporting the RA on the BFWA licence award process. Mason believes that wireless has a key role to play in extending the delivery of broadband services in the UK. We look forward to working with the RA on the format of the revised licensing regime, which we hope will result in further broadband wireless services reaching the market."

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## NOTES FOR THE EDITOR

### About Mason

Mason is a leading, independent, European telecommunications & IT convergence consultancy providing business solutions to public and private sector organisations worldwide. Mason's key services include: strategic & business planning; procurement & outsourcing, design & engineering, programme & project management, network optimisation and training courses.

For further information please contact:

Ray Clarke, Marketing Manager, Mason Group Ltd:

Tel: +44 (0)161 772 8162 Mobile: +44 (0)7740 393299 Fax +44 (0) 161 877 7810

E-mail: [ray.clarke@mason.biz](mailto:ray.clarke@mason.biz) [www.mason.biz](http://www.mason.biz)