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Update on Metropolitan Area Networks

Brief

Metropolitan Area Networks are rings of fibre optic cable, which was laid in the ground around specific towns through out Ireland over the past year. These rings or networks allow connection to Broadband services and high-speed communication and data transfer. The Department of Communications, Marine and Natural Resources made the rollout of this programme possible by combining Government and ERDF Funding under the NDP 2000-2006 [European Regional Development Fund].

These MANs are to remain in State ownership while allowing the private sector open access. The MANs are being independently managed for the State by e-Net, who have been awarded the 15-year services concession contract.

County Roscommon

Roscommon has been approved for three MANs.

[Roscommon Town](#) MAN is in place and E-net is currently liaising with the relevant stakeholders [Providers, County Council, Roscommon Chamber of Commerce etc] to attract users and service providers.

[Castlerea Town](#) has been approved for funding for the rollout of a MAN also. The route and plans have been approved by the Department and work is due to commence shortly.

[Boyle Town](#) has also been approved for funding and recently Roscommon County Council, working closely with the Department of Communications have finalised the route for the network and will be commencing work on this network within the coming months.

The rollout of broadband services is seen as a critical component in increasing the competitiveness of County Roscommon as reflected in the County Roscommon Broadband Strategy published by Roscommon County Development Board. This is available for download on the County Development Board website or on hard copy from the CDB offices.