

JCRA PRESS RELEASE

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MAJOR BOOST FOR COMPETITION IN TELEPHONE SERVICES

The Jersey Competition Regulatory Authority ('JCRA') welcomes the publication by Jersey Telecom of its 'Reference Interconnect Offer' ('RIO'). This document sets out the contractual basis on which it is proposing to allow other Jersey fixed line operators, currently Cable & Wireless and Newtel, to interconnect their networks with that of JT.

Commenting on this development, Bill Brown, the JCRA's Executive Director, said:

"The importance of interconnection cannot be overstated. Without interconnection, new entrants such as Cable & Wireless and Newtel cannot offer Jersey customers local-to-local call services. We hope that the RIO will enable the terms of interconnection to be agreed, and interconnection to take place, as soon as practicable. This should increase competition and choice in fixed line services to the benefit of Jersey consumers and businesses. The JCRA will be monitoring the progress of negotiations on the RIO to ensure that this is achieved."

The RIO has been published following extensive discussions between the JCRA and JT, after the JCRA had expressed concerns over an earlier version of JT's proposed RIO. The move follows JT's decision at the end of 2004 to allow Jersey customers access to competing international call services, after an investigation by the JCRA.

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