

MERGER ANNOUNCEMENT 15 JULY 2014

Competition Authority Clears Acquisition of Connaught Telegraph by Anglo-Celt

The Competition Authority has today cleared the proposed acquisition of certain assets of The Connaught Telegraph Limited (in voluntary liquidation) by The Anglo-Celt Limited, a wholly owned subsidiary of Celtic Media Limited. As a result of the acquisition the publication of The Connaught Telegraph, a regional newspaper, will transfer to The Anglo-Celt Limited. The transaction was notified under the Competition Act 2002 on 25 June 2014.

The Authority has formed the view that the proposed transaction will not lead to a substantial lessening of competition in any markets for goods or services in the State. As with all media mergers the parties may proceed with this merger only if the Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation does not, within 10 days of the date of this decision, direct the Authority to carry out a full investigation. The Authority will publish a public version of the reasons for its determination on its website (www.tca.ie) no later than 12 September 2014 after allowing the parties the opportunity to request that confidential information is removed from the published version.

Notes

Celtic Media Limited, based in Mullingar County Westmeath, and Navan, County Meath is involved in newspaper publishing and printing through its two wholly owned subsidiaries: The Anglo-Celt Limited and The Meath Chronicle Limited.

The Anglo-Celt Limited currently publishes six regional newspapers: The Anglo-Celt, Forum, The Meath Chronicle, Offaly Independent, The Westmeath Examiner and Westmeath Independent.

The Anglo-Celt Limited also supplies prepress services, e.g., the location of news copy and advertising prior to printing, to other regional newspaper publishers.

The Meath Chronicle Ltd supplies printing services The Anglo-Celt Limited and also to other newspaper publishers.

The Connaught Telegraph Limited (in voluntary liquidation), based in Castlebar, County Mayo, publishes The Connaught Telegraph newspaper.

For further information contact:

Clodagh Coffey, Communications Manager, The Competition Authority Tel: 01 8045406 Mobile: 087 915 5406 email: cc@tca.ie