



**Competition Authority Clears Acquisition of SPSS by IBM**

The Competition Authority has today cleared the proposed transaction whereby IBM Corporation ("IBM") would acquire sole control of SPSS Inc. ("SPSS"). The Competition Authority came to its decision after completing its review of the transaction, which was notified under the Competition Act 2002 by the parties on 10 August 2009.

IBM is active worldwide in the development, production and marketing of Information Technology ("IT") solutions. These IT solutions include software, systems (servers, storage systems, software) and services (business consulting and IT infrastructure services). In the State, IBM's activities are carried out through IBM Ireland Limited, a subsidiary of IBM.

SPSS is mainly active, worldwide, in the development and distribution of predictive analytics software and solutions, specialising in statistics, data mining, data collection, and development. SPSS's software products enable customers to (i) access and prepare data for analysis, (ii) develop and deploy predictive models and (iii) generate reports and graphs to present the results.

The Competition Authority has formed the view that the proposed acquisition does not raise competition concerns in the State. The companies have been informed of the decision that the proposed transaction will not lead to a substantial lessening of competition in any markets for goods or services in the State. The proposed transaction may now proceed. A public version of the full text of the reasons for the Authority's decision will be published on the Authority's website ([www.tca.ie](http://www.tca.ie)) by no later than 2 November 2009 after allowing IBM and SPSS the opportunity to request that confidential information be removed from the published version.

**NOTES TO THE EDITOR**

Under Part 3 of the Competition Act 2002, certain mergers or acquisitions in the State that satisfy certain financial thresholds and other conditions must be notified to the Competition Authority and may not be put into effect during a prescribed waiting period. The Authority may clear or prohibit the proposed transaction.

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