



## **MERGER ANNOUNCEMENT** **8 DECEMBER 2010**

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### **Competition Authority to carry out Full Investigation of W&R Barnett's proposed acquisition of joint control of R&H Hall**

The Competition Authority has decided to carry out a full (phase 2) investigation in relation to the proposed transaction whereby W&R Barnett Limited would acquire joint control of R&H Hall Limited from Origin Enterprises plc. The transaction was notified by the parties under the Competition Act 2002 on 11 November 2010.

Following a preliminary investigation, the Competition Authority is unable to conclude that the proposed acquisition will not be to substantially lessen competition in markets for goods or services in the State without carrying out a full investigation. The companies have been informed of the decision that the Competition Authority intends to carry out a full investigation in relation to the proposed transaction. The Competition Authority has until 7 March 2011 to make a final decision on the proposed transaction (but may conclude its investigation in advance of this date).

Interested parties are invited to make submissions no later than **5:00pm on Wednesday, 29 December 2010**. Parties making submissions should indicate clearly what, if any, of the material submitted contains business secrets. Submissions should be marked "**M/10/038 – Barnett/Origin/Hall**" and should be addressed to Barry O'Donnell, Mergers Division, The Competition Authority, Parnell House, 14 Parnell Square, Dublin 1 or sent by e-mail to [bod@tca.ie](mailto:bod@tca.ie)

#### **Notes**

W&R Barnett Limited is an importer of grain, animal feed ingredients and liquid animal feeds. It has storage facilities for grain at the ports of Derry and Belfast.

Origin Enterprises plc owns R&H Hall Limited. Origin Enterprises plc has two divisions: (a) the agri-nutrition division is active in the manufacture, sale, and distribution of feed ingredients, specialist agronomy services, crop nutrition and marine proteins and oils in the State, the United Kingdom, Poland and Norway; and, (b) the food division is involved in the manufacture, sale, and distribution of ambient foods across the retail, food service and manufacturing sectors in the State.

R&H Hall Limited is an importer of grain and animal feed ingredients which it sells to the animal feed and flour milling industries in the State. It has

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**The Competition Authority**  
An tÚdarás Iomaíochta

storage facilities for grain at the ports of Dublin, Cork, Ringaskiddy, and Foynes as well as inland storage facilities at Ardee, Co. Louth.

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