



NEWS RELEASE

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Competition Authority clears joint venture between RTÉ and TG4

The Competition Authority has cleared the creation of a joint venture between Raidió Teilifís Éireann (RTÉ) and Teilifís na Gaeilge (TG4). The proposed joint venture will create Multiplex Broadcasting Services N.I. Limited. The deal must now be cleared by the Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation. It was notified to the Authority under the Competition Act 2002 on 7 December 2011.

The Authority carried out an intensive investigation which involved research, obtaining the views of competitors and television advertising customers (including advertising agencies), extensive information from the parties themselves and consulting with the Broadcasting Authority of Ireland, the Commission for Communications Regulation and the UK Communications Regulator. None of these agencies opposed the deal.

As a result of the investigation, the Authority found that the creation of Multiplex Broadcasting Services N.I. Limited will not substantially lessen competition in the market for the sale television advertising in the State.

During the investigation we focused on three possible problem areas where competition concerns might arise:

- the possible impact on competition between Multiplex Broadcasting Services N.I. Limited and one or both of its parent companies, RTÉ and TG4
- possible co-ordination between RTÉ and TG4 on the sale of television advertising airtime
- possible price increases for television advertising airtime, particularly by RTÉ, if the joint venture goes ahead, or any anti-competitive consequences of an increase in RTÉ's position in the market

As with all media mergers, the deal can only go ahead if the Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation does not direct the Authority to carry out a full (phase 2) investigation within 10 days. We will publish a public version of the decision on our website (www.tca.ie) by 23 April 2012, after the parties have had the opportunity to request that confidential information be removed.

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The Competition Authority
An tÚdarás Iomaíochta

NOTES TO THE EDITOR

RTÉ is a public service broadcaster in the State operating mainly two commercial free-to-air national television channels, RTÉ One and RTÉ Two. RTÉ One and RTÉ Two cover sports, movies, news and general entertainment, predominantly in the English language.

TG4 is a public service broadcaster in the State. It operates one television channel, TG4. This channel covers sports, movies, news and general entertainment, mainly in the Irish language.

Following the Good Friday Agreement, TG4 began broadcasting from the Divis analogue terrestrial transmitter located in Northern Ireland. Due to the upcoming switch from analogue to digital terrestrial television in October 2012, the UK and Irish Governments decided to construct a new television multiplex in Northern Ireland from which Multiplex Broadcasting Services N.I. Limited will broadcast free-to-air channels RTÉ One, RTÉ Two and TG4 in Northern Ireland.

Multiplex Broadcasting Services N.I. Limited has been awarded a broadcast licence by Ofcom, the independent regulator of the communications industry in the UK.

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