

## MERGER ANNOUNCEMENT 11 JANUARY 2013

Competition Authority clears proposed acquisition by The Blackstone Group of Intertrust International Topholding B.V.

The Competition Authority has cleared the proposed acquisition by The Blackstone Group of Intertrust International. The parties notified the transaction under the Competition Act 2002 on 13 December 2012.

Blackstone is a global alternative asset manager. Its funds include private equity funds, real estate funds, hedge funds, credit oriented funds and publicly traded mutual funds. Intertrust is principally a provider of trust and administration services to corporate clients. Intertrust is established in the Netherlands and is majority owned by Waterland Private Equity Investments B.V. Both companies have offices in Ireland and so the acquisition was notifiable under Irish competition law.

Following a preliminary, or "Phase 1" assessment, the Authority has formed the view that the proposed transaction will not lead to a substantial lessening of competition in any market for goods or services in the State and accordingly, that the acquisition may be put into effect.