



MERGER ANNOUNCEMENT 29 OCTOBER 2013

Competition Authority Clears Acquisition of Fiberweb by Blackstone

The Competition Authority has cleared the proposed acquisition of control by the Blackstone Group L.P. (Blackstone) of Fiberweb plc ("Fiberweb"). The transaction was notified under the Competition Act 2002 on 1 October 2013.

The Authority has formed the view that the proposed transaction will not substantially lessen competition in any market for goods or services in the State. The companies have been informed of the decision. The Authority will publish a public version of the reasons for its determination on its website (www.tca.ie) no later than 28 December 2013 after allowing the parties the opportunity to request that confidential information is removed from the published version.

Notes

Blackstone is incorporated in the United States and is a global alternative asset manager and provider of financial advisory services. Blackstone's core business is to identify and execute investment opportunities on behalf of its clients. In the State, Blackstone is active, through a number of its portfolio companies including the Polymer Group Inc ("PGI").

PGI is a global engineered materials company, focused primarily on the production of nonwoven materials for the hygiene, wipes, medical, and industrial segments. PGI operates 13 manufacturing facilities in nine countries worldwide including three in Europe.

Fiberweb is a UK based company and is active globally in the manufacture and sale of customised nonwoven fabrics for various uses and has production sites in the US, the UK, Germany, Italy, France and India.

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