



Competition Authority Clears Acquisition of Palm Inc. by Hewlett Packard Company

The Competition Authority has, on 31st May 2010, cleared the proposed transaction whereby Hewlett Packard ("HP") would acquire sole control of Palm Inc. ("Palm"). The transaction was notified by the parties under section 18(1) of the Competition Act 2002 on 14 May 2010.

HP, headquartered in Palo Alto, California, USA, is a global supplier of information technology ("IT") products and services. HP's products include computing systems, personal computers, printers, scanners and copiers and also the iPAQ range of smartphones. HP's services include consulting, education, design and installation, ongoing support and maintenance, and IT service outsourcing. HP offers its full range of products and services within the State. HP is not involved in the production or sale of operating systems for smartphones.

Palm, headquartered in Sunnyvale, California, USA, is a global supplier of mobile products including its most recent smartphone models, Palm Pre and Palm Pixi, which run on the new Palm WebOS operating system. Palm WebOS supports capabilities such as contacts, calendar, tasks, memos, phone, browser, e-mail, messaging, camera, photo viewer and audio/video player. Palm does not sell smartphone operating systems to third party customers.

The Competition Authority has formed the view that the proposed acquisition does not raise any 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 therefore 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) no later than 30 July 2010 after allowing the parties the opportunity to request that confidential information is removed from the published version.

For further information contact:

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