

DETERMINATION OF MERGER NOTIFICATION M/25/073 – KUEHNE & NAGEL/EASTWAY GLOBAL FORWARDING

Section 21 of the Competition Act 2002

Proposed acquisition by Kuehne und Nagel International AG of sole control of Eastway Global Forwarding Limited

Dated 25 November 2025

Introduction

1. On 10 November 2025, in accordance with section 18(1)(a) of the Competition Act 2002, as amended (the “Act”), the Competition and Consumer Protection Commission (the “Commission”) received a notification of a proposed acquisition whereby Kuehne und Nagel International AG (“Kuehne & Nagel”), through Kuehne & Nagel (Ireland) Limited (“Kuehne & Nagel Ireland”), would acquire sole control of Eastway Global Forwarding Limited (“Eastway”) (the “Proposed Transaction”).¹

The Proposed Transaction

2. The Proposed Transaction is to be implemented by way of a share purchase agreement dated 31 October 2025 between McNrd Holdings Limited (the “Seller”)², Kuehne & Nagel Ireland (the Buyer), and the Individual Warrantors³ (the “SPA”). Pursuant to SPA, Kuehne & Nagel Ireland will acquire the entire issued share capital and thus sole control of Eastway.
3. The business activities of the undertakings involved are:

The Acquirer – Kuehne & Nagel

¹ Kuehne & Nagel and Eastway are collectively referred to as the “Parties” hereafter.

² Eastway is currently 100% owned and controlled McNrd Holdings Limited.

³ Frank McNamara and Frank McNamara Jnr.

- Kuehne & Nagel is a Swiss-headquartered international shipping and logistics company, with activities across the world.
- In the State, Kuehne & Nagel, through Kuehne & Nagel Ireland, provides a range of transport and logistics services to Irish and international customers across a range of industry sectors. The services provided by Kuehne & Nagel in the State include:
 - (i) freight forwarding, which involves the planning and coordinating of the movement of commodities across international borders on behalf of shippers;
 - (ii) contract logistics services, which involve the outsourcing of the organisation and management of logistics activities to a fourth-party logistics providers; and
 - (iii) inland road transportation and warehousing.⁴

The Target – Eastway

- Eastway is a privately-owned freight forwarding and logistics provider headquartered in Limerick.
 - Eastway primarily provides aerospace freight forwarding and warehousing services to the aerospace sector. Its freight forwarding services are primarily cross-border and involve the movement of jet engines and aircraft parts around the world plus related customs clearance solutions.
 - In addition to its customers in the aerospace sector, Eastway also provides some general freight forwarding and warehousing services, including for the transport and storage of pharmaceuticals and foodstuffs.
4. After examination of the notification, the Commission has concluded that the Proposed Transaction falls within the scope of paragraph 2.1 of the Simplified Merger

⁴ [REDACTED]

Notification Procedure Guidelines for assessing certain notifiable mergers or acquisitions under section 18 of the Act since:

- two or more of the undertakings involved in the merger/acquisition are active in the same product and geographic market, but their combined market share is less than 15%; and
- none of the exclusions stipulated in paragraphs 2.8 to 2.15 of the SMNG apply to the undertakings or the markets in which the undertakings operate.

Ancillary Restraints

5. Clauses 14.1(a) and 14.1(b) of the SPA contain non-compete and non-solicitation obligations on the Seller and each of the Individual Warrantors. The duration and the scope of these non-compete obligations do not exceed the maximum duration and maximum scope acceptable to the Commission. Therefore, the Commission considers these restrictions to be directly related to and necessary for the implementation of the Proposed Transaction, insofar as they relate to the State.⁵

⁵ In this respect, the Commission follows the approach adopted by the European Commission in paragraph 20 of the Commission Notice on restrictions directly related and necessary to concentrations [2005] OJ C 56/24.



Determination

The Competition and Consumer Protection Commission, in accordance with section 21(2)(a) of the Competition Act 2002, as amended, has determined that, in its opinion, the result of the proposed acquisition whereby Kuehne und Nagel International AG, through Kuehne & Nagel (Ireland) Limited, would acquire sole control of Eastway Global Forwarding Limited will not be to substantially lessen competition in any market for goods or services in the State, and, accordingly, that the acquisition may be put into effect.

For the Competition and Consumer Protection Commission

Alan Scarlett

Director

Mergers Division

Competition and Consumer Protection Commission