



The Competition Authority

An tÚdarás Iomáíochta

Determination No. M/05/020 of the Competition Authority, dated 1st June 2005, under Section 21 of the Competition Act, 2002

Notification No. M/05/020 – Proposed acquisition by Ulster Television plc of The Wireless Group

Introduction

1. On 13th May 2005, the Competition Authority, in accordance with Section 18 (1) of the Competition Act, 2002 (“the Act”) was notified, on a mandatory basis, of a proposal whereby Ulster Television plc (“UTV”) would acquire The Wireless Group plc (“TWG”). The Authority advised the parties and the Minister that it considers the transaction to be a “media merger”, within the meaning of Section 23 of the Act.

The Parties

2. UTV, the acquirer, is active in the media sector in Ireland. UTV operates in three principal areas: commercial television (UTV); radio (Cork’s 96 FM and 103 FM, Limerick’s Live 95 FM, and Dublin’s Q102); and new media (UTV Internet and BOCOM International).
3. TWG, the target, is a commercial radio group and is active in the media sector in the UK. TWG operates through three divisions: talkSPORT, Independent Local Radio Stations and Digital Radio. TWG does not carry on business in the island of Ireland within the meaning of the Act.

Analysis

4. On the basis that TWG does not carry on business in the island of Ireland, the transaction would not have any effect on competition in the State. Therefore, the transaction does not give rise to competition concerns.

Determination

The Competition Authority, in accordance with Section 21(2) of the Act, has determined that, in its opinion, the result of the proposed acquisition by Ulster Television plc of The Wireless Group plc will not be to



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substantially lessen competition in markets for goods and services in the State and, accordingly, that the acquisition may be put into effect.

For the Competition Authority

Edward Henneberry

Member of the Competition Authority