



The Competition Authority

An tÚdarás Iomaíochta

NEWS RELEASE

Thursday, 21 December 2006

THE COMPETITION AUTHORITY TO CARRY OUT FULL INVESTIGATION OF THE PROPOSED ACQUISITION BY APPLIED MATERIALS INC. OF CERTAIN ASSETS AND BUSINESSES OF BROOKS AUTOMATION INC.

The Competition Authority announced today (21 December, 2006) that it has decided to carry out a full (Phase 2) investigation in relation to the proposed acquisition by Applied Materials Inc. of certain assets and businesses of Brooks Automation. Both parties are involved in the supply of specific software applications in the State. This proposed acquisition has been notified in a number of other jurisdictions including China, Germany, Korea, Taiwan and the USA.

The Competition Authority received notification of the proposed acquisition on 1 December 2006. The Competition Authority is required under the Mergers and Acquisitions section of the Competition Act 2002 to determine whether the result of the proposed acquisition will "substantially lessen competition" in markets for goods or services in the State.

After a preliminary investigation (Phase 1), the Competition Authority has been unable to conclude without further investigation that the transaction will not substantially lessen competition.

The Competition Authority has until Friday 30 March 2007 to make a final determination on the transaction (the Competition Authority may conclude its investigation in advance of this date). The investigation of the proposed acquisition will examine the effect on competition in the supply of specific software applications in the State.

Interested parties are invited to make written or oral submissions, which must be made **no later than 5.00pm on Wednesday 10 January 2007**. Submissions should be marked "M/06/087 – Applied Materials Inc/Brooks Software", and should be addressed to Brendan O'Connor, C/o Mergers Division, the Competition Authority, Parnell House, 14 Parnell Square, Dublin 1 or sent by e-mail to boc@tca.ie

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NOTES TO THE EDITOR

Text of Editor's Notes