



MERGER ANNOUNCEMENT 3 NOVEMBER 2010

Competition Authority Clears the Acquisition of 'Newry Democrat' Newspaper by Alpha Newspaper Group

The Competition Authority has today cleared the proposed transaction whereby the Tontine Rooms Holding Company Limited, the holding company for the Alpha Newspaper Group, would acquire the assets, including goodwill, of the business of the *Newry Democrat* from TCH Democrat Media Limited. The transaction was notified by the parties under the Competition Act 2002 on 6 September 2010

The Authority has formed the view that the proposed transaction 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.

As with all media mergers the parties may only proceed with this merger if the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Innovation does not direct the Authority to carry out a full investigation within 10 days of the date of the Authority's decision. The Authority will publish a public version of the reasons for its determination on its website (www.tca.ie) no later than 31 December 2010 after allowing the parties the opportunity to request that confidential information is removed from the published version.

Notes

Alpha Newspaper Group is mainly active in the publication and sale of direct advertising in weekly local and regional newspapers in Northern Ireland including the *Ulster Gazette* which has a limited circulation in County Monaghan in the State.

The *Newry Democrat* is a weekly paid-for newspaper that is circulated mainly in Newry, County Down and south County Armagh in Northern Ireland. The *Newry Democrat* has a limited circulation in north County Louth and County Monaghan in the State.

For further information contact:

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