



## Determination of the Competition Authority

**Determination No. M/03/042 of the Competition Authority, dated 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2004 , under Section 21 of the Competition Act, 2002**

**Notification No. M/03/042 – Proposed acquisition by Abbott Laboratories of i-STAT Corporation.**

### **Introduction**

1. On 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2003 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 Abbott Laboratories (Abbott), through its wholly-owned subsidiary Senator Acquisition Corporation, would acquire those remaining shares of i-STAT Corporation (i-STAT) which it does not currently hold.

### **The Parties**

2. Abbott is a US-registered multinational corporation which is engaged in the discovery, development, manufacture and sale of a broad and diversified line of health care products and services. In Ireland, Abbott sells pharmaceutical products, medical hospital products, medical diagnostics and medical nutritionals.
3. i-STAT is also a US registered corporation which develops, manufactures and markets medical diagnostic products for blood analysis. i-STAT’s sales into Ireland for 2002 amounted to €[ ] approximately.

### **Analysis**

4. Both parties manufacture medical diagnostic products that are used at the point of care (POC), i.e. outside the physical facilities of clinical laboratories. Abbott distributes i-STAT’s Irish products and has exclusive global distribution rights to the vast majority of i-STAT’s products. Abbott estimates its share of the POC sector in Ireland (including its distribution of i-STAT products) is [0-5]%. There are a number of other competitors, one of which has over 60% share of the point of care sector in Ireland. Given the competitive constraints and small market share, the transaction does not give rise to concerns.

### **Determination**

The Competition Authority, in accordance with Section 21(2) of the Competition Act, 2002, has determined that, in its opinion, the result of the proposed acquisition will not be to substantially lessen competition in markets for goods and services in the State and, accordingly, that the acquisition may be put into effect.



## **Determination of the Competition Authority**

**For the Competition Authority**

**Edward Henneberry  
Member of the Competition Authority**

**22<sup>nd</sup> January 2004**