



The Competition Authority

An tÚdarás Iomaíochta

PUBLIC NOTICE

Full Investigation of Merger M/10/043 - Stena/DFDS

The Competition Authority has determined to carry out a full investigation under Section 22 of the Competition Act 2002 of merger notification M/10/043 – the transaction whereby Stena AB, through its subsidiary Stena Line UK Limited, would acquire certain assets from DFDS A/S.

Stena AB, based in Goteborg, Sweden, is involved through its subsidiaries in various activities including international and domestic sea-based passenger and freight ferry services.

Stena Line (UK) Limited and its subsidiaries currently operate ferry services on four Irish Sea routes, namely between: (i) Rosslare and Fishguard, (ii) Dublin and Holyhead, (iii) Dun Laoghaire and Holyhead, and (iv) Belfast and Stranraer. Stena also operated ferry services between Larne and Fleetwood until ceasing operations on 24 December 2010.

DFDS A/S, based in Copenhagen, Denmark, is involved in sea-based freight and passenger transport in Northern Europe.

The Target Assets relate specifically to the business to be acquired by Stena Line (UK) Limited, namely passenger and freight transport services on the Irish Sea between Belfast and Liverpool and between Belfast and Heysham. The Target Assets include vessels, related assets, inventory, employees and contracts relating to the services currently operated by DFDS A/S, through its subsidiary DFDS Seaways Irish Sea Ferries Limited

Interested parties are invited to make submissions no later than **5:00pm on Friday 4 February 2010**. Parties making submissions should indicate clearly what, if any, of the material submitted contains business secrets. Submissions should be marked "**M/10/043 – Stena/DFDS**" and should be addressed to Andrew Rae, Mergers Division, The Competition Authority, Parnell House, 14 Parnell Square, Dublin 1 or sent by e-mail to ar@tca.ie