



MERGER ANNOUNCEMENT 21 MAY 2010

Competition Authority Clears Acquisition of Sophos Plc and its subsidiaries by Apax Partners LLP.

The Competition Authority has today cleared the proposed transaction whereby Apax Partners LLP ("Apax") would acquire sole control of Sophos Plc ("Sophos") and its subsidiaries. The transaction was notified by the parties under the Competition Act 2002 on 10 May 2010.

Apax, registered in England, is a private equity investment group, which provides investment advisory and investment management services to private equity funds investing primarily in Europe. Apax controls a diverse portfolio of companies across the following sectors: technology and telecoms, retail and consumer, media, healthcare and financial and business services.

Sophos is a public limited company based in the United Kingdom that is active, through its subsidiaries, in the provision of security software products to enterprises, which include small and medium sized businesses, large corporations, educational institutions and government agencies.

The Competition Authority has formed the view that the proposed acquisition 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. The proposed transaction may now proceed.

A public version of the full text of the reasons for the Authority's decision will be published on the Authority's website (www.tca.ie) no later than 20 June 2010 after allowing the parties the opportunity to request that confidential information is removed from the published version.

For further information contact:

Clodagh Coffey, Communications Manager, The Competition Authority
Tel: 01 8045406 Mobile: 087 915 5406 email: cc@tca.ie