



MERGER ANNOUNCEMENT

Competition and Consumer Protection Commission clears proposed acquisition by Smeral of Payzone Ireland

24/03/2015

The Competition and Consumer Protection Commission has today cleared the proposed transaction whereby Smeral Limited would acquire sole control of Payzone Ireland Limited. The proposed transaction was notified under the Competition Act 2002 on 9 March 2015.

The Commission has formed the view that the proposed transaction will not substantially lessen competition in any market for goods or services in the State. The Commission will publish the reasons for its determination on its website no later than 60 working days after the date of the determination and after allowing the parties the opportunity to request that confidential information be removed from the published version.

Additional Information

Smeral is owned by The Carlyle Group L.P., a global asset fund manager that manages funds which invests across four business segments: (a) Corporate Private Equity (buyout and growth capital); (b) Real Assets (real estate, infrastructure, energy and renewable resources); (c) Global Market Strategies (distressed and corporate opportunities, corporate mezzanine, energy mezzanine, structured credit, hedge funds and structured credit); and (d) Solutions (private equity fund of funds program and related co-investment and secondary activities).

Payzone Ireland, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Payzone Group Limited, operates a multi-channel consumer payments acceptance network in the State. Payzone Ireland's main services are the provision of mobile phone top up and card acceptance solutions. It also provides customised payment solutions such as a utility meter top up payment solution. Payzone Ireland focuses on four business sectors: telecoms, financial services, utilities, and transport.