



M/05/076 – Sagard/Souriau

Determination of the Competition Authority dated 22nd December 2005

Proposed acquisition by Sagard FCPR of Souriau Holding SAS

Introduction

1. On 30th November 2005 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 Sagard FCPR and Sagard Connecteurs represented by their management company Sagard S.A.S. (“Sagard”) would acquire sole control of Souriau Holding SAS (“Souriau Holding”).

The Undertakings Involved

2. Both Sagard FCPR and Sagard Connecteurs are investment funds, managed by Sagard, which in turn is owned by Power Corporation of Canada, a diversified management and holding company, which has investments in companies as diverse as media, energy, water, waste services and speciality minerals’ companies. In 2004, Power Corporation of Canada had a worldwide turnover of c.€[10 – 20] billion and a turnover of c.€[100-300] million in the State. Sagard is a European private equity specialist, based in Paris, which provides investment capital for experienced management teams, who wish to develop their business on the markets upon which they operate.
3. Souriau Holding is a supplier of connectors and interconnect products and is currently owned by a group of private equity investors led by AXA Private Equity. Souriau Holding designs, manufactures and markets standard electrical, electronic and fibre optic connectors, and complex interconnect solutions. Its products are engineered and manufactured in the USA, Dominican Republic, Europe, Morocco, Japan and India. Souriau Holding does not have any presence in Ireland and supplies the Irish market through its French facilities. In the financial year ended 30th June 2005, Souriau Holding had a worldwide turnover of €[100 – 200] million and a turnover of €[<500,000] in Ireland.

Analysis

4. None of the portfolio of companies controlled by Sagard, nor the companies in which Sagard has invested, are involved in any business that overlap with that of Souriau Holding in Ireland. The transaction does not, therefore, give rise to competition concerns.



The Competition Authority
An tÚdarás Iomaíochta

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 by Sagard FCPR of Souriau Holding SAS 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.

For the Competition Authority

Edward Henneberry
Member of the Competition Authority