



**Competition Authority Clears Acquisition of ALcontrol Laboratories by GSO Capital**

The Competition Authority has today cleared the proposed transaction whereby GSO Capital Partners LP ("GSO Capital") would acquire sole control of ALcontrol Laboratories ("ALcontrol"). The Competition Authority came to its decision after completing its review of the transaction, which was notified under the Competition Act 2002 by the parties on 7 October 2009.

GSO Capital, based in New York, specialises in leveraged finance and manages various financial investment funds. ALcontrol has a European network of testing laboratories. Within the State, ALcontrol's activities concern environmental laboratory testing; including land analysis, environmental water analysis, and air emissions monitoring.

The Competition Authority has formed the view that the proposed acquisition does not raise 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](http://www.tca.ie)) by no later than 21 December 2009 after allowing the parties the opportunity to request that confidential information be removed from the published version.

**NOTES TO THE EDITOR**

Under Part 3 of the Competition Act 2002, certain mergers or acquisitions in the State that satisfy certain financial thresholds and other conditions must be notified to the Competition Authority and may not be put into effect during a prescribed waiting period. The Authority may clear or prohibit the proposed transaction.

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