



## **MERGER ANNOUNCEMENT    27 FEBRUARY 2014**

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### **Competition Authority Clears Acquisition by Communicorp of UK Radio Stations**

The Competition Authority has today cleared the proposed acquisition by Communicorp Group Limited of sole control of Cardiff Broadcasting Company Limited, Galaxy Radio Scotland Limited, Gwent Area Broadcasting Limited, Real Radio Yorkshire Limited, Real Radio North Limited, Real Radio XS Limited, Smooth Radio Midlands Limited, Smooth Radio North East Limited and Smooth Radio Limited. The transaction was notified under the Competition Act 2002 on 10 February 2014.

The Authority has formed the view that the proposed transaction will not lead to a substantial lessening of competition in any markets for goods or services in the State.

As with all media mergers, the parties may only proceed with this merger if the Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation does not direct the Authority to carry out a full investigation (Phase 2) within 10 days of the date of the Authority's decision. The Authority will publish a public version of the reasons for its determination on its website ([www.tca.ie](http://www.tca.ie)) no later than 26 April 2014 after allowing the parties the opportunity to request that confidential information is removed from the published version.

#### **Notes**

The proposed transaction involves the acquisition by Communicorp of eight radio stations in the United Kingdom. The eight radio stations are the subject of a divestiture by Global Radio Holdings Limited pursuant to the findings in a report by the Competition Commission in the United Kingdom dated 21 May 2013 in relation to the acquisition by Global Radio Holdings Limited of Real and Smooth Limited. Communicorp was approved by the Competition Commission as an eligible purchaser of the eight radio stations, and has been selected by the sellers as the preferred purchaser.

Communicorp has businesses engaged in various media channels across Europe. In the State, Communicorp owns the following six commercial radio stations, all licensed by the Broadcasting Authority of Ireland to broadcast in various regions: Spin 103.8, 98FM, Newstalk, Phantom FM, Spin South West and Today FM. Communicorp is owned by Denis O'Brien.

#### **For further information contact:**

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**The Competition Authority**  
An tÚdarás Iomaíochta

Cardiff Broadcasting Company Limited is involved in radio broadcasting to listeners in South Wales and providing advertising space on Capital South Wales.

Galaxy Radio Scotland Limited is involved in radio broadcasting to listeners in Glasgow and Edinburgh and providing advertising space on 105-106 Capital FM Scotland.

Gwent Area Broadcasting Limited is a dormant company.

Real Radio Yorkshire Limited is involved in radio broadcasting to listeners in Yorkshire and providing advertising space on Real Radio Yorkshire.

Real Radio North Limited is involved in radio broadcasting to listeners in North and Mid-Wales and providing advertising space on Real Radio North Wales.

Real Radio XS Limited is involved in radio broadcasting to listeners in Manchester and providing advertising space on Real Radio XS.

Smooth Radio Midlands Limited is involved in radio broadcasting to listeners in the East Midlands and providing advertising space on Smooth East Midlands.

Smooth Radio North East Limited is involved in radio broadcasting to listeners in the North East of England and in providing advertising space on Smooth North East.

Smooth Radio Limited is involved in radio broadcasting to listeners in the North West of England and in providing advertising space on Smooth North West.

**For further information contact:**

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