



## **MERGER ANNOUNCEMENT 22 AUGUST 2011**

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### **Competition Authority Clears the Merger of Acromas Holdings Limited and Allied Healthcare International Incorporated.**

The Competition Authority has today cleared the proposed transaction whereby Acromas Holdings Limited would merge with Allied Healthcare International Incorporated. The transaction was notified by the parties under the Competition Act 2002 on 4 August 2011.

The Authority has formed the view that the proposed transaction 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.

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 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 21 October 2011 after allowing the parties the opportunity to request that confidential information is removed from the published version.

#### **Notes**

Acromas is jointly controlled by three private equity companies; Permira Advisers, CVC and Charterhouse. Permira and CVC each respectively have a controlling interest in companies that carry on a media business as defined in section 23 of the Act. Acromas, through its AA and Saga subsidiaries, is primarily active in the sale of branded goods and services in the U.K. and the State. The main products and services sold by these subsidiaries are roadside assistance, motor insurance, home insurance, private medical insurance and travel insurance, books, magazines and package and cruise holidays. Acromas is also active in the provision of domiciliary care services but only in the U.K.

Allied Healthcare is a provider of domiciliary care and healthcare staffing services in the U.K and the State. These services involve the provision of personal or basic care and nursing services in the home, in nursing and care homes and in hospitals. Allied Healthcare maintains a register of healthcare staff consisting principally of homecare aides (known as carers), nurses and nurses' aides.

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

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