

## MDA/QUEST ASSOCIATES MERGER INQUIRY

### Cancellation of merger reference

The Competition Commission (CC) cancelled the reference concerning the proposed acquisition by MacDonald, Dettwiler and Associates Limited of Quest End Computer Services Limited, Quest Systems Development Limited and Cywood Management Limited on 27 February 2007.

The reference was made to the CC on 14 February 2007 by the Office of Fair Trading under section 33 of the Enterprise Act 2002. The terms of reference required the CC to examine:

- (a) whether arrangements were in progress or in contemplation which, if carried into effect, would result in the creation of a relevant merger situation; and
- (b) if so, whether the creation of that situation may be expected to result in a substantial lessening of competition within any market or markets in the UK for goods or services, namely the supply of network connectivity and workflow and administration software as a composite product.

The CC has received assurances from the parties to the proposed acquisition that the proposed acquisition by MacDonald, Dettwiler and Associates Limited of Quest End Computer Service Limited, Quest Systems Development Limited and Cywood Management Limited has been abandoned. The Chairman of the CC, Mr Peter Freeman, having had regard to those assurances, is satisfied that MacDonald, Dettwiler and Associates Limited has, within the terms of section 37(1) of the Enterprise Act 2002, abandoned the proposal to make arrangements of the kind mentioned in the reference. The Chairman has consequently cancelled the reference in accordance with his powers under Schedule 7 to the Competition Act 1998.

This cancellation is published in accordance with requirements laid down by sections 107(2)(a) and 107(4) of the Enterprise Act 2002.