

**ANTICIPATED ACQUISITION BY HOSPEDIA GROUP LTD OF PREMIER
TELESOLUTIONS LIMITED**

**Notice of extension of time limit for report published pursuant to
section 107(2)(c) of the Enterprise Act 2002 (the Act)**

1. On 7 October 2008 the Office of Fair Trading referred the anticipated acquisition of Premier Telesolutions Limited ('Premier') by Hospedia Limited (now Hospedia Group Limited) ('Hospedia') to the Competition Commission (CC) for investigation and report. The period within which the report on this reference was to be prepared and published was due to expire on 23 March 2009.
2. On 17 October 2008 the CC issued a notice under section 109 of the Act to Hospedia and Premier requiring them to supply information and documents by 5pm on 20 October 2008. In particular, the CC requested information about the proposed acquisition, including further details about the parties involved and the proposed acquisition.
3. Neither party complied with its notice. The CC is satisfied that Premier [redacted]. Where a reference has been made to the CC there is a pressing need to pursue the reference expeditiously. Nonetheless, in the exceptional circumstances of this case the CC has decided to extend the period for compliance with the notice by 10 working days, until Monday 3 November 2008.
4. The information specified in the notices is required by the CC to enable it to answer its statutory questions. The CC considers that Premier has a reasonable excuse for failure to comply with the requirements of the notice served on it. Therefore, pursuant to section 39(4) of the Act the CC has decided that the reference period should be extended. The period of the extension is not intended to be longer than 10 working days. The CC will not consider further the imposition of any penalties for non-compliance until after 3 November 2008.
5. At this stage the CC does not consider that the extension will jeopardize the effectiveness of any remedy the CC might wish to impose but will keep this under review. In the circumstances the CC considers it reasonable to extend until 3 November 2008 the period allowed Hospedia to comply with the notice served on it on 17 October 2008. Pursuant to section 39(8) of the Act, the extension to the reference period will continue in force for 10 working days or such shorter period as reflects the additional time required by Premier and Hospedia to provide the information specified in the notice.

(signed) Peter Freeman
Chairman, Competition Commission
24 October 2008