



## News Release

50/09

3 November 2009

### **BRIGHTSOLID/FRIENDS REUNITED**

#### **Competition Commission invites evidence**

The Office of Fair Trading (OFT) has referred the anticipated acquisition of Friends Reunited Holdings Limited by Brightsolid Group Limited to the Competition Commission (CC).

The CC has been asked to decide whether the acquisition may be expected to result in a substantial lessening of competition within any market or markets in the UK.

Brightsolid, which runs websites Find My Past.com and 1911 Census.com, and Friends Reunited, which owns Genes Reunited.com, are two of the three largest suppliers of online genealogy services in the UK. These websites allow users to search and access historical information and documents such as census results, birth, marriage and death records, and also supply family tree software.

The CC is expected to report by 16 April 2010.

The CC would like to hear from all interested parties, in writing, by 17 November 2009. To submit evidence, please email [BrightsolidFriendsRe@cc.gsi.go.uk](mailto:BrightsolidFriendsRe@cc.gsi.go.uk) or write to:

Anne Jolly  
Inquiry Manager  
Brightsolid/Friends Reunited inquiry  
Competition Commission  
Victoria House  
Southampton Row  
LONDON  
WC1B 4AD

#### **Notes for editors**

1. The CC is an independent public body, which carries out investigations into mergers, markets and the regulated industries.
2. The Enterprise Act 2002 empowers the OFT to refer to the CC completed or proposed mergers for investigation and report which create or enhance a 25 per cent share of

supply in the UK (or a substantial part thereof) or where the UK turnover associated with the enterprise being acquired is over £70 million.

3. The CC has a 24-week period in which it is required to publish its report, which may be extended by no more than eight weeks if it considers that there are special reasons why the report cannot be published within that period.
4. Further information on this inquiry, including the terms of reference and other key documents, as well as on the CC and its procedures, including its policy on the provision of information and the disclosure of evidence, can be obtained from the CC website at: [www.competition-commission.org.uk](http://www.competition-commission.org.uk).
5. Enquiries should be directed to Rory Taylor or John Park on 020 7271 0242 (email: [rory.taylor@cc.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:rory.taylor@cc.gsi.gov.uk) or [john.park@cc.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:john.park@cc.gsi.gov.uk)).