



## **MERGER ANNOUNCEMENT      24 FEBRUARY 2014**

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### **Competition Authority Clears Acquisition of joint control of Aggrego by Future and Wrapports**

The Competition Authority has cleared the proposed acquisition of joint control of Aggrego Services LLC by Future Holdings Limited and Wrapports Ventures LLC. The transaction was notified under the Competition Act 2002 on 27 January 2014.

The Authority has formed the view that the proposed transaction will not substantially lessen competition in any market for goods or services in the State. The companies have been informed of the decision.

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 23 April 2014 after allowing the parties the opportunity to request that confidential information is removed from the published version.

#### **Notes**

Future is an indirectly held wholly owned subsidiary of the Digicel Group which in turn is ultimately owned and controlled by Denis O'Brien. The Digicel Group provides mobile telecommunications services in the Caribbean, Central America and across Asia-Pacific. Denis O'Brien also has interests in various sectors including radio, entertainment and aircraft leasing. Denis O'Brien controls Communicorp Group Limited which owns and operates radio stations in Ireland, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Bulgaria, Latvia and Jordan and has a 29.9% shareholding in Independent News and Media PLC.

Wrapports is active in publishing, operating associated websites and advertising focused on Illinois in the US. Wrapports owns and operates the Chicago Sun Times along with seven suburban daily newspapers, 23 weekly newspapers published by the Pioneer Press and various associated websites.

Aggrego is a media-technology company which offers consultation and services in digital publishing software and infrastructure technology along with digital content and sales strategy to clients and other media partners.

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

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