



MERGER NOTICE NO 45: 2017

THE PROPOSED ACQUISITION OF 60% SHARES IN BMS (PTY) LTD; OFFICE TECHNIQUE (PTY) LTD; AND RANGECOM (PTY) LTD BY E-AFRICA HOLDINGS, FROM BIDVEST OFFICE HOLDINGS.

Pursuant to section 56(1) of the Competition Act (Cap 46:09), the Competition Authority has received a merger notification for the proposed acquisition of 60% shares in BMS (Pty) Ltd ["BMS"]; Office Technique (Pty) Ltd ["Office Technique"]; and RangeCom (Pty) Ltd ["RangeCom"] by e-Africa Holdings ["e-Africa"], from Bidvest Office Holdings ["Bidvest Office"].

The acquiring enterprise, e-Africa, is a company incorporated under the Laws of the Republic of Botswana. e-Africa has a 40% stake in each of the target companies. All three companies are registered in Botswana. BMS supplies retail stationary and offers business centre services; whereas Office Technique is an appointed Konica Minolta distributor, as well as supplies photocopying equipment and its servicing. RangeCom was a wholesale distribution of stationary, office furniture and equipment but has since ceased operations. The target companies collectively represent a number of brands such as Konica Minolta; Ocè; Hortors; Dauphin; Pago; and Global Payment Technologies. The directors of e-Africa are Desmond Cloete (Motswana); Graeme Cloete; and Louis Cloete (Both South African).

The target enterprise, Bidvest Office, is a South African investment company ultimately owned by Bidvest Group Ltd ("Bidvest Group"); a multinational investment company incorporated under the Laws of the Republic of South Africa and listed on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange. Bidvest Office operates in the stationary and office equipment business in Botswana through a controlling stake in the three target companies. The directors of Bidvest Office are: Kevin Wakeford Burman; Allen Kotze; Gillian Claire Mc Mahon; Nompumelelo Thembekile Madisa; Lindsay Peter Ralphs; Hans Peter Meijer; and Rodger William Graham (all South African).

According to section 57(3), of the Competition Act, "any person, including a third party not a party to the proposed merger, may voluntarily submit to the inspector or the Authority any document, affidavit, statement or other relevant information in respect of a proposed merger".

The Competition Authority therefore seeks any stakeholder views for or against the proposed merger, which may be sent within 10 days from date of this publication to the following address:

Director, Mergers and Monopolies
Competition Authority
Private Bag 00101
Plot 28, Matsitama Road, Main Mall
Gaborone
Tel: +267 3934278 Fax: +267 3121013
Email: CA@competitionauthority.co.bw