



# News Release

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## **SVITZER MUST SELL OFF LIVERPOOL OPERATION**

The Competition Commission (CC) will require SvitzerWijsmuller A/S to sell off one of the harbour towage operations in Liverpool, if it goes ahead with the anticipated acquisition of Adsteam Marine Ltd.

In its final report published today at [www.competition-commission.org.uk](http://www.competition-commission.org.uk), the CC has decided that the acquisition may be expected to result in a substantial lessening of competition for towage services in Liverpool, although it has not identified similar problems anywhere else in the UK. This confirms the provisional findings which were published in December last year.

Svitzer Marine Ltd (Svitzer), the UK subsidiary of SvitzerWijsmuller A/S, operates 41 tugs and provides services in seven port areas and at six terminals in the UK. Adsteam UK Ltd (Adsteam), the UK subsidiary of Adsteam Marine Ltd, provides harbour and terminal towage services in six of the UK's major deep-water port areas and their adjacent waterways.

Liverpool is the only port where Svitzer and Adsteam currently provide competing towage services.

### **Notes for editors**

1. The CC is an independent public body, which carries out investigations into mergers, markets and the regulated industries.
2. The Svitzer/Adsteam inquiry group consists of four members: Christopher Smallwood (Group Chairman), Rob Murray, Peter Stoddart and Alan Young.
3. SvitzerWijsmuller A/S is a Danish marine service company. Adsteam Marine Ltd is an Australian-based international towage operator.
4. The Enterprise Act 2002 empowers the Office of Fair Trading 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.

5. 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. The case was referred to the CC on 31 August 2006.
6. Further information on the CC and its procedures, including its policy on the provision of information and the disclosure of evidence, can be obtained from its website at: [www.competition-commission.org.uk](http://www.competition-commission.org.uk).
7. Enquiries should be directed to Rory Taylor on 020 7271 0242 (email [rory.taylor@cc.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:rory.taylor@cc.gsi.gov.uk)).