

**SOUTH WEST AIRPORTS LIMITED - EXETER AND DEVON AIRPORT LIMITED
MERGER INQUIRY**

Cancellation of merger reference

The Competition Commission (CC) cancelled the reference concerning the proposed acquisition by Macquarie Airports Group Limited and Ferrovial Aeropuertos SA of a 90% holding in Exeter and Devon Airport Limited from Devon County Council on 4 November 2005.

The reference was made to the CC on 11 October 2005 by the Office of Fair Trading under section 33 of the Enterprise Act 2002. The terms of reference required the CC to examine:

- (a) whether arrangements were in progress or in contemplation which, if carried into effect, would result in the creation of a relevant merger situation; and
- (b) if so, whether the creation of that situation may be expected to result in a substantial lessening of competition in relation to the market for the provision of airport infrastructure services in the South West of England.

The CC has received assurances from Macquarie Airports Group Limited and Ferrovial Aeropuertos SA that the proposed acquisition by Macquarie Airports Group Limited and Ferrovial Aeropuertos SA of a 90% holding in Exeter and Devon Airport Limited from Devon County Council has been abandoned. Mr Peter Freeman, a Deputy Chairman of the CC and designated in accordance with paragraph 3(5)(b)(ii) of Schedule 7 to the Competition Act to act in the Chairman's absence, having had regard to those assurances is satisfied that Macquarie Airports Group Limited and Ferrovial Aeropuertos SA have abandoned the proposal to make arrangements of the kind mentioned in the reference within the terms of section 37(1) of the Enterprise Act 2002. The Chairman has consequently cancelled the reference in accordance with his powers under Schedule 7 to the Competition Act 1998.

This cancellation is published in accordance with requirements laid down by sections 107(2)(a) and 107(4) of the Enterprise Act 2002.