

Completed acquisition by GB Group plc of Capscan Parent Limited

**ME/5295/11**

The OFT's decision given on 22 December 2011. Full text of decision published 10 January 2012.

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**PARTIES**

1. **GB Group plc** (GB) is active in the supply of various identity verification software and services. These services allow companies to verify a person's identity and address. GB also offers services that allow companies to trace a customer or target marketing to particular customers.
2. **Capscan Parent Limited** (Capscan) also provides identity verification software and services which allows companies to verify a person's identity and address.

**JURISDICTION**

3. On 2 November 2011 GB completed an acquisition of Capscan.
4. Capscan's UK turnover for the financial year ended 31 March 2011 was less than £7 million. Therefore, the turnover test set out in section 23 of the Enterprise Act 2002 (the Act) is not met in this case.
5. The parties submitted together they would account for less than 25 per cent of address management software solutions in the UK (at 14 per cent). They submitted that this is the narrowest frame of reference on which they have overlapping activities. The parties told the OFT that if this frame of reference were to be widened to include other address management services (such as mapping solutions for in-car satellite navigation devices) then the parties' combined share would be less than 14 per cent.

6. Further, the parties submitted that they are not aware of any category of products or services in respect of which they would account for 25 per cent or more in the UK.

## **DECISION**

7. On the basis of the information available to it, the Office of Fair Trading has decided that the acquisition does not qualify for investigation under the mergers provisions of the Act because neither the UK turnover test nor the share of supply test in section 23 of the Act is met. A relevant merger situation has, therefore, not been created.