

ANTICIPATED ACQUISITION BY BT GROUP PLC OF EE

Invitation to comment

The Competition and Markets Authority (**CMA**) is considering whether it is or may be the case that this transaction, if carried into effect, will result in the creation of a relevant merger situation under the merger provisions of the Enterprise Act 2002 and, if so, whether the creation of that situation may be expected to result in a substantial lessening of competition within any market or markets in the United Kingdom for goods or services.

This invitation to comment (**ITC**), which the CMA is publishing at the start of its statutory investigatory period pursuant to the receipt of a complete merger notice, follows an earlier ITC which was published on 4 March 2015 during the pre-notification phase.

In this case, the CMA has received a request from the parties to the transaction for a fast track reference to Phase 2, in accordance with paragraphs 6.61 to 6.65 of the [Guidance on the CMA's jurisdiction and procedure](#) dated January 2014 (**the Guidance**).

The CMA is considering whether the criteria for a fast track reference, as set out in the Guidance, are satisfied and, to assist it with this assessment, the CMA invites comments on the request from any interested party.

In fast track cases the time for third party consultation is generally reduced given that third parties will have an opportunity to present their views on the transaction during the Phase 2 investigation. Therefore the period of this consultation is five days.

Comments should be provided by 26 May 2015 to:

Ronan Scanlan

0203 738 6127

Email: ronan.scanlan@cma.gsi.gov.uk