

**ACQUISITION BY RANJIT BOPARAN AND BALJINDER BOPARAN
OF THE BUSINESS FORMERLY CARRIED ON BY BERNARD
MATTHEWS LIMITED**

**Initial Enforcement Order made by the
Competition and Markets Authority pursuant to
section 72(2) of the Enterprise Act 2002 (the Act)**

Whereas:

- (a) the Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) has reasonable grounds for suspecting that it is or may be the case that enterprises conducted by Ranjit Boparan and Baljinder Boparan and the business formerly carried on by Bernard Matthews Limited (the **Target Business**) have ceased to be distinct (the **Transaction**);
- (b) the CMA is considering, pursuant to section 22 of the Act, whether it is or may be the case that a relevant merger situation has been created and whether the creation of that situation has resulted or may be expected to result in a substantial lessening of competition in any market or markets in the United Kingdom (UK);
- (c) the CMA wishes to ensure that no action is taken pending final determination of any reference under section 22 of the Act which might prejudice that reference or impede the taking of any action by the CMA under Part 3 of the Act which might be justified by the CMA's decisions on the reference; and
- (d) the circumstances set out in section 72(6) of the Act do not apply and the reference has not been finally determined in accordance with section 79(1) of the Act.

Now for the purposes of preventing pre-emptive action in accordance with section 72(2) of the Act the CMA makes the following order addressed to Ranjit Boparan, Baljinder Boparan, Boparan Holdco Limited and Amber REI Holdings Limited (together the **Acquiring Entities**) (Order).

Commencement, application and scope

1. This Order commences on the commencement date: **14 October 2016**.

2. This Order applies to the **Acquiring Entities**.
3. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Order, no act or omission shall constitute a breach of this Order, and nothing in this Order shall oblige the Acquiring Entities to reverse any act or omission, in each case to the extent that it occurred or was completed prior to the commencement date.

Management of the Acquiring Entities businesses and the Target Businesses until determination of proceedings

4. Except with the prior written consent of the CMA, the Acquiring Entities shall not, during the specified period, take any action which might prejudice a reference of the transaction under section 22 of the Act or impede the taking of any action under the Act by the CMA which may be justified by the CMA's decisions on such a reference, including any action which might:
 - (a) lead to the integration of the Target Business with the Acquiring Entities businesses;
 - (b) transfer the ownership or control of the Acquiring Entities businesses or the Target Business or any of their subsidiaries; or
 - (c) otherwise impair the ability of the Target Business or the Acquiring entities businesses to compete independently in any of the markets affected by the transaction.
5. Further and without prejudice to the generality of paragraph 4 and subject to paragraph 3, the Acquiring Entities shall at all times during the specified period procure that, except with the prior written consent of the CMA:
 - (a) the Target Business is carried on separately from the Acquiring Entities business and the Target Business's separate sales or brand identity is maintained;
 - (b) the Target Business and the Acquiring Entities businesses are maintained as a going concern and sufficient resources are made available for the development of the Target business and the Acquiring Entities businesses, on the basis of their respective pre-merger business plans;
 - (c) except in the ordinary course of business, no substantive changes are made to the organisational structure of, or the management responsibilities within, the Target Business or the Acquiring Entities businesses;

- (d) the nature, description, range and quality of goods and/or services supplied in the UK by each of the two businesses are maintained and preserved;
- (e) except in the ordinary course of business for the separate operation of the two businesses:
 - (i) all of the assets of the Target Business and the Acquiring Entities business are maintained and preserved, including facilities and goodwill;
 - (ii) none of the assets of the Target Business or the Acquiring Entities business are disposed of; and
 - (iii) no interest in the assets of the Target Business or the Acquiring Entities businesses is created or disposed of;
- (f) there is no integration of the information technology of the Target Business or Acquiring Entities businesses, and the software and hardware platforms of the Target Business shall remain essentially unchanged, except for routine changes and maintenance;
- (g) the customer and supplier lists of the two businesses shall be operated and updated separately and any negotiations with any existing or potential customers and suppliers in relation to the Target Business will be carried out by the Target Business alone and for the avoidance of doubt the Acquiring Entities businesses will not negotiate on behalf of the Target Business (and vice versa) or enter into any joint agreements with the Target Business (and vice versa);
- (h) all existing contracts of the Target Business and the Acquiring Entities businesses continue to be serviced by the business to which they were awarded;
- (i) no changes are made to key staff of the Target Business or the Acquiring Entities businesses;
- (j) no key staff are transferred between the Target Business and the Acquiring Entities business;
- (k) all reasonable steps are taken to encourage all key staff to remain with the Target Business and the Acquiring Entities businesses; and
- (l) no business secrets, know-how, commercially-sensitive information, intellectual property or any other information of a confidential or proprietary nature relating to either of the two businesses shall pass,

directly or indirectly, from the Target Business (or any of its employees, directors, agents or affiliates) to the Acquiring Entities businesses (or any of its employees, directors, agents or affiliates), or vice versa, except where strictly necessary in the ordinary course of business (for example, where required for compliance with external regulatory and/or accounting obligations) and on the basis that, should the transaction be prohibited, any records or copies (electronic or otherwise) of such information that have passed, wherever they may be held, will be returned to the business to which they relate and any copies destroyed.

Compliance

6. The Acquiring Entities shall procure that each of its subsidiaries complies with this Order as if the Order had been issued to each of them.
7. The Acquiring Entities shall provide to the CMA such information or statement of compliance as it may from time to time require for the purposes of monitoring compliance by the Acquiring Entities and its subsidiaries with this Order. In particular, on 27 October 2016 and subsequently every two weeks (or, where this does not fall on a working day, the first working day thereafter) the Chief Executive Officer(s) of the Acquiring Entities or other persons of the Acquiring Entities as agreed with the CMA shall, on behalf of the Acquiring Entities, provide a statement to the CMA in the form set out in the Annex to this Order confirming compliance with this Order.
8. At all times, the Acquiring Entities shall, or shall procure that the Target Business shall, actively keep the CMA informed of any material developments relating to the Target Business or the Acquiring Entities businesses, which includes but is not limited to:
 - (a) details of key staff who leave or join the Target Business or the Acquiring Entities businesses;
 - (b) any interruption of the Target Business or the Acquiring Entities business (including without limitation its procurement, production, logistics, sales and employee relations arrangements) that has prevented it from operating in the ordinary course of business for more than 24 hours;
 - (c) all substantial customer volumes won or lost or substantial changes to the customer contracts of the Target Business or the Acquiring Entities businesses including any substantial changes in customers' demand; and
 - (d) substantial changes in the Target Business or the Acquiring Entities business's contractual arrangements or relationships with key suppliers.

9. If the Acquiring Entities has any reason to suspect that this Order might have been breached it shall immediately notify the CMA and any monitoring trustee that Acquiring Entities may be directed to appoint under paragraph 10.
10. The CMA may give directions to a specified person or to a holder of a specified office in any body of persons (corporate or unincorporated) to take specified steps for the purpose of carrying out, or ensuring compliance with, this Order, or do or refrain from doing any specified action in order to ensure compliance with the Order. The CMA may vary or revoke any directions so given.
11. The Acquiring Entities shall comply in so far as it is able with such directions as the CMA may from time to time give to take such steps as may be specified or described in the directions for the purpose of carrying out or securing compliance with this Order.

Interpretation

12. The Interpretation Act 1978 shall apply to this Order as it does to Acts of Parliament.
13. For the purposes of this Order:

'the Acquiring Entities' means Ranjit Boparan, Baljinder Boparan, Boparan Holdco Limited (registered in the UK at Colmore Court, 9 Colmore Row, Birmingham, England, B3 2BJ, with company number **07495915**) and Amber REI Holdings Limited (registered in the UK at Colmore Court, 9 Colmore Row, Birmingham, England, B3 2BJ, with company number **07191982**);

'the Acquiring Entities businesses' means the businesses of the Acquiring Entities and their subsidiaries carried on as at the commencement date;

'the Act' means the Enterprise Act 2002;

'an affiliate' of a person is another person who satisfies the following condition, namely that any enterprise (which, in this context, has the meaning given in section 129(1) of the Act) that the first person carries on from time to time and any enterprise that the second person carries on from time to time would be regarded as being under common control for the purposes of section 26 of the Act;

'business' has the meaning given by section 129(1) and (3) of the Act;

'commencement date' means 14 October 2016;

'control' includes the ability directly or indirectly to control or materially to influence the policy of a body corporate or the policy of any person in carrying on an enterprise;

'the decisions' means the decisions of the CMA on the questions which it is required to answer by virtue of section 35 of the Act;

'key staff' means staff in positions of executive or managerial responsibility and/or whose performance affects the viability of the business;

'the ordinary course of business' means matters connected to the day-to-day supply of goods and/or services by the Target Business or the Acquiring Entities and does not include matters involving significant changes to the organisational structure or related to the post-merger integration of the Target Business and the Acquiring Entities businesses;

'specified period' means the period beginning on the commencement date and terminating in accordance with section 72(6) of the Act;

'subsidiary', unless otherwise stated, has the meaning given by section 1159 of the Companies Act 2006;

'the Target Business' means the business formerly carried on by Bernard Matthews Limited, which is currently comprised of Amber Real Estate Investments (Agriculture) Limited (registered in the UK at Colmore Court, 9 Colmore Row, Birmingham, England, B3 2BJ, with company number **09885883**), Amber Real Estate Investments (Industrial) Limited (registered in the UK at Colmore Court, 9 Colmore Row, Birmingham, England, B3 2BJ, with company number **09885767**) and Bernard Matthews Foods Limited (registered in the UK at Colmore Court, 9 Colmore Row, Birmingham, England, B3 2BJ, with company number **10036286**) (and all subsidiaries of these businesses) as at the commencement date;

'the transaction' means the transaction by which Acquiring Entities and the Target Business have ceased to be distinct within the meaning of section 23 of the Act;

'the two businesses' means the Acquiring entities businesses and the Target Business;

unless the context requires otherwise, the singular shall include the plural and vice versa.

Ronan Scanlan
Assistant Director, Mergers
Competition and Markets Authority

Compliance statement for [Acquiring Entities]

I [insert name] confirm on behalf of each of [Ranjit Boparan/Baljinder Boparan/Boparan Holdco Limited/Amber REI Holdings Limited][*delete as appropriate*] that:

Compliance in the Relevant Period

1. In the period from [insert date] to [insert date] (the Relevant Period):
 - (a) The [Acquiring Entities][*replace with reporting entity here and wherever else in the statement the term "Acquiring Entity" appears*] have complied with the Order made by the CMA in relation to the transaction on 14 October 2016 (the Order).
 - (b) The Acquiring Entities' subsidiaries have also complied with this Order.
2. Subject to paragraph 3 of the Order, and except with the prior written consent of the CMA:
 - (a) No action has been taken by the Acquiring Entities that might prejudice a reference of the transaction under section 22 of the Act or impede the taking of any action by the CMA which may be justified by its decision on such a reference, including any action which might:
 - (i) lead to the integration of the Target Business with the Acquiring Entities businesses;
 - (ii) transfer the ownership or control of the Acquiring Entities businesses or the Target Business or any of their subsidiaries; or
 - (iii) otherwise impair the ability of the Target Business or the Acquiring Entities businesses to compete independently in any of the markets affected by the transaction.
 - (b) The Target Business has been carried on separately from the Acquiring Entities businesses and the Target Business's separate sales or brand identity has been maintained.
 - (c) The Target Business and the Acquiring Entities businesses have been maintained as a going concern and sufficient resources have been made available for the development of the Target Business and the Acquiring Entities businesses, on the basis of their respective pre-merger business plans.

- (d) No substantive changes have been made to the organisational structure of, or the management responsibilities within, the Target Business or the Acquiring Entities businesses, except in the ordinary course of business.
- (e) The nature, description, range and quality of goods and/or services supplied in the UK by the Target Business and the Acquiring Entities businesses have been maintained and preserved.
- (f) Except in the ordinary course of business for the separate operation of the two businesses:
 - (i) all of the assets of the Target Business and the Acquiring Entities businesses, including facilities and goodwill, have been maintained and preserved as at the start of the Relevant Period;
 - (ii) none of the assets of the Target Business or the Acquiring Entities businesses have been disposed of; and
 - (iii) no interest in the assets of the Target Business or the Acquiring Entities businesses has been created or disposed of.
- (g) There has been no integration of the information technology of the Target Business or Acquiring Entities businesses, and the software and hardware platforms of the Target Business have remained essentially unchanged, except for routine changes and maintenance.
- (h) Subject to integration which had occurred prior to the commencement date, the customer and supplier lists of the two businesses have been operated and updated separately and any negotiations with any existing or potential customers and suppliers in relation to the Target Business have been carried out by the Target Business alone and, for the avoidance of doubt, the Acquiring Entities businesses have not negotiated on behalf of the Target Business (and vice versa) or entered into any joint agreements with the Target Business (and vice versa).
- (i) All existing contracts of the Target Business and the Acquiring Entities businesses have been serviced by the business to which they were awarded, except to the extent novated, assigned or subcontracted prior to the commencement date.
- (j) No changes have been made to key staff of the Target Business or the Acquiring Entities businesses.
- (k) No key staff have been transferred between the Target Business and the Acquiring Entities businesses.

- (l) All reasonable steps have been taken to encourage all key staff to remain with the Target Business and the Acquiring Entities businesses.
- (m) Except as permitted by the Order, no business secrets, know-how, commercially-sensitive information, intellectual property or any other information of a confidential or proprietary nature relating to either of the two businesses, has passed, directly or indirectly, from the Target Business (or any of its employees, directors, agents or affiliates) to the Acquiring Entities business (or any of its employees, directors, agents or affiliates), or vice versa.
- (n) Except as listed in paragraph (o) below, there have been no:
 - (i) key staff that have left or joined the Target Business or the Acquiring Entities businesses;
 - (ii) interruptions of the Target Business or the Acquiring Entities businesses (including without limitation procurement, production, logistics, sales and employee relations arrangements) that have prevented it from operating in the ordinary course of business for more than 24 hours;
 - (iii) substantial customer volumes won or lost or substantial changes to the customer contracts for the Target Business or the Acquiring Entities businesses; or
 - (iv) substantial changes in the Target Business or the Acquiring Entities business's contractual arrangements or relationships with key suppliers.

(o) *[list of material developments]*

3. The Acquiring Entities and their subsidiaries remain in full compliance with the Order and will, or will procure that the management of the Target Business, continue actively to keep the CMA informed of any material developments relating to the Target Business or the Acquiring Entities business in accordance with paragraph 8 of the Order.

Interpretation

4. Terms defined in the Order have the same meaning in this compliance statement.

FOR AND ON BEHALF OF [RANJIT BOPARAN/BALJINDER BOPARAN/
BOPARAN HOLDCO LIMITED/AMBER REI HOLDINGS LIMITED][*delete as
appropriate*]

Signature

Name

Title

Date