

14 June 2018

**COMPLETED ACQUISITION BY AUCTION TECHNOLOGY GROUP
GERMANY GMBH OF SPH SOFTWAREPARTNER HAMBURG GMBH
& CO. KG**

**Notice under paragraph (b) of the definition of ‘initial period’ in
section 34ZA(3) of the Enterprise Act 2002 (the Act) published
pursuant to section 107(1)(ab) of the Act**

The Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) hereby gives notice pursuant to paragraph (b) of the definition of ‘initial period’ in section 34ZA(3) of the Act that it has sufficient information in relation to the completed acquisition by Auction Technology Group Germany GMBH of Softwarepartner Hamburg GMBH & Co. KG, (the Merger) to enable it to begin an investigation for the purposes of deciding whether to make a reference for a Phase 2 investigation.

The initial period defined in section 34ZA(3) of the Act in relation to the Merger will therefore commence on the first working day after the date of this notice, ie on 15 June 2018. The deadline under section 34ZA for the CMA to announce its decision whether to refer the Merger for a Phase 2 investigation would therefore be 9 August 2018. However, as the four-month period under section 24 of the Act currently ends before this date, the deadline for the CMA to announce its decision whether to refer the Merger for a Phase 2 investigation is currently the final day of this four-month period as extended, ie 16 July 2018.