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COMP/M. 7476

SECTION 1.2

Description of the concentration

The notified concentration concerns the acquisition of joint control by Holtzbrinck Publishing Group (“HPG”) and Springer Science + Business Media GP Acquisition S.C.A. (“SSBM SCA”) over a newly created full-function joint venture.

HPG is the collective trading name of Georg von Holtzbrinck GmbH & Co. KG, its general partner, Verlagsgruppe Georg von Holtzbrinck GmbH, and its global subsidiaries. Businesses operating within HPG’s current portfolio are organised in three core operational divisions that are not reflective of legal structures: “Macmillan Science and Education” (science and education), “Macmillan Publishers” (fiction and non-fiction), and “Holtzbrinck Digital, Information & Services” (internet companies, news media and services).

SSBM SCA is the parent company of SSBM Group and is currently indirectly solely controlled by limited partnerships collectively constituting BC European Capital IX acting by its general partner CIE Management IX Limited. SSBM Group’s principal business activities comprise the publishing of academic journals and books, primarily in the science, technology and medical fields, certain operations in the area of online databases and workflow tools and local language professional publishing under various imprints, amongst others, in Germany and the Netherlands.

The joint venture will combine all activities of SSBM Group and most of the activities of HPG’s business unit “Macmillan Science and Education.” The joint venture will be primarily active in academic publishing.