



**COMESA Competition Commission**

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Common Market for Eastern  
and Southern Africa

25<sup>th</sup> March 2022

## **CCC Merger Inquiry Notice No. 16 of 2022**

### **Notice of Inquiry into the Proposed Acquisition of Sole Control by Hitachi Rail Ltd of Thales' Ground Transportation Systems Business**

It is hereby notified in terms of Article 26(6) of the COMESA Competition Regulations (the “**Regulations**”) that the COMESA Competition Commission (the “**Commission**”), after receiving a notification in terms of Article 24 of the Regulations regarding the proposed acquisition of sole control by Hitachi Rail, Ltd (“**Hitachi Rail**”) of Thales' Ground Transportation Systems Business (“**Target business**”), intends to embark on an inquiry in terms of Article 26 of the Regulations.

Hitachi Rail, the acquiring undertaking, is a global provider of transport solutions including rolling stock, signalling systems, turnkey solutions, maintenance services and components. Hitachi Rail is a wholly owned subsidiary of Hitachi, Ltd. (“**Hitachi**”), a Japanese multi-national conglomerate, headquartered in Tokyo and active globally in a variety of business segments including IT, Energy, Industry, Mobility, Smart Life and Automotive systems. Hitachi Rail has no activities in the Common Market. The Acquiring Group is however active in Egypt and Zambia.

The Target Business is a division of Thales SA (“**Thales**”) which offers various solutions across four different business lines: (i) mainline signalling, (ii) urban rail signalling, (iii) integrated communication and supervision solutions, and (iv) revenue collection systems. In the Common Market, Thales is active in Egypt and Kenya.

The parties have submitted that Hitachi Rail intends to acquire 100% of the Target business and that the acquisition of the Target's Business is in line with Hitachi's growth strategy in the mobility sector.

The Commission will, in accordance with the provisions of Article 26 of the Regulations, determine, among other things, whether or not the proposed transaction is likely to substantially prevent or lessen competition within the Common Market and whether it would be contrary to the public interest.

In view of this, the Commission hereby gives notice to all interested stakeholders, including competitors, suppliers and customers of the parties to the proposed transaction to submit written representations to the Commission with regard to the

subject matter of the proposed inquiry by emailing them to: [akamanga@comesa.int](mailto:akamanga@comesa.int). All written representations should be sent to the Commission not later than **15<sup>th</sup> April 2022**.

If you wish to seek further details and/or clarifications on any aspect of this proposed transaction or need assistance you may get in touch with **Mr. Ali Kamanga, Senior Analyst, Mergers and Acquisitions** on Tel: +265 (0) 1 772 466 or [akamanga@comesa.int](mailto:akamanga@comesa.int).

All written representations submitted to the Commission will be treated with the strictest confidentiality and will only be used for the purpose of this inquiry.