

Vodafone-Three Merger May Soon Receive Approval

Description

The regulator has indicated that the merger between Vodafone and Three may proceed, contingent upon both companies making commitments to consumer pricing and pledging to enhance the UK's 5G infrastructure.

The Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) [previously warned](#) that establishing what would be the largest mobile network in the country could lead to increased prices and reduced competition.

However, [the CMA has now tentatively determined](#) that these apprehensions could be alleviated—permitting the merger to advance—if the firms acquiesce to its suggested conditions.

A spokesperson for Vodafone remarked that both companies would require a thorough examination of the CMA's recommendations but expressed optimism, stating that it "provides a viable route to final approval."

They maintained, as has been their consistent position, that the merger serves the interests of all stakeholders.

"This merger is poised to offer substantial advantages to businesses and consumers nationwide, facilitating the rollout of advanced 5G technology to every school and hospital throughout the UK," they asserted.

The CMA's conclusions represent a significant progression in its investigation of the merger, which commenced in January.

Vodafone and Three disclosed their intentions to merge their UK operations in June of the previous year.

Together, their combined network would cater to approximately 27 million subscribers.

Stuart McIntosh, the chair of the CMA panel overseeing the inquiry, expressed, "We believe this merger could potentially foster competition in the UK mobile market, provided our concerns are adequately addressed."

He elaborated that the substantial commitment to upgrade the integrated network over the next decade could cultivate a competitive landscape that sustains the recent dynamism within the mobile sector.

However, he underscored the importance of short-term assurances against increasing prices for select mobile tariffs and data plans for a minimum of three years, to ensure consumer protection.

The regulator also noted that adherence to existing agreements and pricing arrangements with Mobile Virtual Network Operators like Sky Mobile, Lyca, and Lebara could safeguard both consumers and wholesale clients.

Industry analyst Paolo Pescatore remarked to the BBC that this development signifies "a critical milestone towards approval," indicating that all parties are diligently working to facilitate the merger's realization.

Currently, the predominant players in the market are EE and O2; Pescatore asserted that a merged



Vodafone and Three would be better positioned to compete against them.

"Thus far, both entities have illustrated a commitment to the broader interests of the UK economy and its users, which paves the way for a more robust three-player market relative to the current disparity," he concluded.

The CMA is inviting feedback on its proposed remedies until November 12, with a deadline of December 7 for a final decision regarding the merger.

Vocabulary List:

1. **Regulator** /'rɛg.jʊ.leɪ.tər/ (noun): An official or authority that oversees and enforces laws and regulations.
2. **Merger** /'mɜːr.dʒər/ (noun): The combination of two or more organizations into one entity.
3. **Competition** /,kɒmpə'tɪʃən/ (noun): The rivalry among sellers to attract customers and increase sales.
4. **Infrastructure** /'ɪn.frəˌstrʌk.tʃər/ (noun): The basic physical structures and facilities needed for the operation of a society or enterprise.
5. **Apprehensions** /,æp.rɪ'hɛn.ʃənz/ (noun): Feelings of anxiety or fear that something bad will happen.
6. **Assurances** /ə'ʃʊə.rəns/ (noun): Statements that inspire confidence or certainty.

Comprehension Questions

Multiple Choice

1. What conditions were set by the regulator for the merger between Vodafone and Three to proceed?
Option: Making commitments to consumer pricing and enhancing the UK's 5G infrastructure
Option: Merging their UK operations
Option: Increasing prices and reducing competition
Option: Expanding internationally
2. When did Vodafone and Three disclose their intentions to merge their UK operations?
Option: January of the current year
Option: June of the previous year
Option: December of the previous year
Option: February of the current year
3. Who emphasized the importance of short-term assurances against increasing prices for select mobile tariffs and data plans?



- Option: Stuart McIntosh
- Option: Paolo Pescatore
- Option: Vodafone spokesperson
- Option: CMA regulator

4. What is the deadline set for a final decision regarding the merger?

- Option: November 30
- Option: December 7
- Option: December 15
- Option: January 1

5. Who remarked that the merger of Vodafone and Three could potentially foster competition in the UK mobile market?

- Option: Paolo Pescatore
- Option: Vodafone spokesperson
- Option: Stuart McIntosh
- Option: CMA regulator

6. Which analyst stated that a merged Vodafone and Three would be better positioned to compete against EE and O2?

- Option: Vodafone spokesperson
- Option: Stuart McIntosh
- Option: Paolo Pescatore
- Option: CMA regulator

True-False

7. The regulator expressed concerns that the merger between Vodafone and Three could lead to reduced competition.

8. Vodafone and Three combined network would cater to approximately 15 million subscribers.

9. The CMA is inviting feedback on its proposed remedies until October 12.

10. Stuart McIntosh is the spokesperson for Vodafone.

11. Vodafone and Three disclosed their intentions to merge their UK operations in January of the current year.



12. The merger of Vodafone and Three serves the interests of all stakeholders.

Gap-Fill

13. The CMA is inviting feedback on its proposed remedies until _____ 12.

14. Vodafone and Three disclosed their intentions to merge their UK operations in _____
of the previous year.

16. Vodafone and Three's combined network would cater to approximately _____
million subscribers.

17. Paolo Pescatore remarked to the BBC that this development signifies "a critical milestone towards
approval," indicating that all parties are diligently working to facilitate the merger's realization.

_____ even stated that a merged Vodafone and Three would be better positioned to
compete against the current predominant players in the market, EE and O2.

18. The CMA is inviting feedback on its proposed remedies until _____ 12, with a
deadline of December 7 for a final decision regarding the merger.

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. Making commitments to consumer pricing and enhancing the UK's 5G infrastructure
2. June of the previous year 3. Stuart McIntosh 4. December 7 6. Paolo Pescatore

True-False: 7. True 8. False 9. False 10. False 11. False 12. True

Gap-Fill: 13. November 14. June 16. 27 17. Paolo Pescatore

Vocabulary quizzes

Multiple Choice (Select the Correct answer for each question.)

1. Which word best describes a situation that is uncertain and risky?



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- Option: Entrust
Option: Precarious
Option: Regulatory
Option: Innovative
2. Which term refers to the improper or harmful use of something?
Option: Accountable
Option: Misuse
Option: Efficacy
Option: Assurances
3. What word is used to describe what remains after something is removed?
Option: Residual
Option: Scattering
Option: Vulnerability
Option: Innovative
4. What term refers to the rivalry between individuals or groups for a common goal?
Option: Entrust
Option: Competition
Option: Assurances
Option: Amalgamate
5. Which word describes the process of preparing someone for a specific role or task?
Option: Offence
Option: Grooming
Option: Transmission
Option: Opaqueness
6. What term is used to express worries or anxieties about something?
Option: Regulator
Option: Concerns
Option: Semipermeable
Option: Entrust
7. Which word describes the basic physical and organizational structures needed for the operation of a society or enterprise?
Option: Innovative
Option: Opaqueness
Option: Infrastructure
Option: Regulatory
8. What term is used to describe promises or guarantees intended to provide confidence?



- Option: Offence
- Option: Assurances
- Option: Cessation
- Option: Efficacy

9. Which word refers to feelings of anxiety or unease about something uncertain?

- Option: Technique
- Option: Apprehensions
- Option: Merger
- Option: Accountable

10. What term describes the ability to produce a desired or intended result?

- Option: Efficacy
- Option: Innovative
- Option: Semipermeable
- Option: Disentangle

Gap-Fill (Fill in the blanks with the correct word from the vocabulary list.)

11. _____ refers to the state of being exposed to the possibility of being harmed or attacked.
12. A _____ is an official who has the power to control or manage certain activities.
13. A corporate _____ is the joining of two or more companies into a single entity.
14. An _____ idea is original creative and introduces a new way of doing things.
15. _____ refers to the process of sending or conveying information from one place to another.
16. _____ in decision-making can lead to lack of clarity and understanding.
17. Being _____ means taking responsibility for one's actions and decisions.
18. To _____ a situation is to separate it from a complex or problematic state.
19. To _____ is to combine or unite to form a single entity.



20. A _____ membrane allows only certain molecules to pass through.

Matching Sentences (Match each definition to the correct word from the vocabulary list.)

21. Parents often their children with important tasks to teach responsibility.
22. The company announced the of all production activities at its plant.
23. Public officials must be held to a high standard of for their decisions.
24. The government agency enforces guidelines for the pharmaceutical industry.
25. The artist perfected a new for blending colors in her paintings.
26. The sudden increase in sales was a surprising and unexpected for the company.
27. The wind caused the of leaves all over the yard.
28. The company was accused of the of natural resources without regard for the environment.
29. The new software introduced an approach to solving common problems.
30. After the flood there was a significant amount of water damage in the basement.

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. Precarious 2. Misuse 3. Residual 4. Competition 5. Grooming 6. Concerns 7. Infrastructure 8. Assurances 9. Apprehensions 10. Efficacy

Gap-Fill: 11. Vulnerability 12. Regulator 13. Merger 14. Innovative 15. Transmission 16. Opaqueness 17. Accountable 18. Disentangle 19. Amalgamate 20. Semipermeable

Matching sentence: 1. Entrust 2. Cessation 3. Accountability 4. Regulatory 5. Technique 6. Phenomenon 7. Scattering 8. Exploitation 9. Innovative 10. Residual

CATEGORY

1. Sci/Tech - LEVEL5

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