



**AIB and Bank of Ireland announce the withdrawal of proposals for an IT Joint Venture
23rd August 2002**

AIB and Bank of Ireland have announced that they have annulled their agreement to form a joint venture technology company (JV) and have jointly withdrawn their application to the European Commission for competition clearance for the proposed JV.

This decision has been taken following an indication from the Commission that the JV would be subjected to a further detailed investigation lasting for a prolonged period. Both banks concluded that such an extended process would create great uncertainty and would be unduly costly. It could also have an adverse impact on customer service and would be de-stabilising for staff.

AIB and Bank of Ireland are disappointed that the JV will not now go ahead. It would have reduced processing costs substantially and improved efficiency and customer service. It generated strong interest in the banking and technology sectors internationally and had the potential to provide its services to organisations with volume processing requirements in Ireland and elsewhere.

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